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Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227: further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report updates documents E/1996/97 of 23 September 1996 and E/1996/97/Add.1 of 30 January 1997. It provides information on the establishment, terms of reference, membership and composition, term of office of members, reporting procedure, frequency of meetings, and working methods of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–5	5
II.	Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council	6–384	5
A.	Functional commissions	6–201	5
1.	Statistical Commission	6–21	5
2.	Commission on Population and Development	22–39	7
3.	Commission for Social Development	40–57	9
4.	Commission on Human Rights	58–101	11
5.	Commission on the Status of Women	102–117	17
6.	Commission on Narcotic Drugs	118–144	19
7.	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	145–158	22
8.	Commission on Science and Technology for Development	159–173	24
9.	Commission on Sustainable Development	174–189	25
10.	United Nations Forum on Forests	190–201	27
B.	Regional commissions	202–236	29
1.	Economic Commission for Africa	202–210	29
2.	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	211–217	31
3.	Economic Commission for Europe	218–224	32
4.	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	225–231	33
5.	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	232–236	35
C.	Standing committees	237–287	36
1.	Committee for Programme and Coordination	237–252	36
2.	Commission on Human Settlements	253–268	39
3.	Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	269–285	41
4.	Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies	286–287	43
D.	Ad hoc bodies	288–293	43
	Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics	288–293	43
E.	Expert bodies composed of governmental experts	294–313	44
1.	Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	294–305	44
2.	United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	306–313	47

F. Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity 314–359 48

1. Committee for Development Policy 314–321 48

2. Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance 322–328 49

3. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters 329–335 50

4. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 336–342 51

5. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development 343–350 51

6. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 351–359 52

G. Related bodies 360–384 53

1. International Narcotics Control Board 360–366 53

2. Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women 367–374 54

3. Committee for the United Nations Population Award 375–379 55

4. Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 380–384 55

III. Subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields 385–485 56

A. Standing bodies 385–477 56

1. Committee for Programme and Coordination 385 56

2. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries 386–389 56

3. United Nations Children's Fund 390–398 57

4. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development 399–408 58

5. United Nations Development Fund for Women 409–418 60

6. United Nations Development Programme 419–429 62

7. United Nations Environment Programme 430–438 64

8. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 439–447 65

9. United Nations Population Fund 448–458 67

10. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East 459–462 68

11. World Food Programme 463–477 69

B. Ad hoc bodies 478–485 71

1. Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development 478–482 71

2. Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa 483–485 71

Acronyms

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WFP	World Food Programme

I. Introduction

1. In Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/41 of 26 July 1996, adopted pursuant to its consideration of the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive document compiling information on the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies and to submit it to the Council. Consequently, a report entitled "Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields" (E/1996/97) was presented to the Council at its resumed substantive session of 1996. An addendum to that report (E/1996/97/Add.1) provided further information on the working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups of the Council.

2. Since that time, the number, structure and terms of reference of subsidiary organs have evolved in the context of the ongoing restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields carried out by the Council and the Assembly. Since 1995, the Council has also undertaken major efforts to increase cooperation and coordination between its subsidiary bodies, as well as between the Council and these bodies, especially with regard to integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits. Subsidiary bodies, especially the functional commissions, have continued to adapt their working methods in response to the Council's guidance on greater efficiency, effectiveness and cooperation in the intergovernmental machinery.

3. The present report updates information on the status of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly in the economic, social and related fields. It is intended as a reference tool, providing in a readily accessible format information on the intergovernmental and expert machinery in these fields, and thus supporting the intergovernmental mechanisms in the implementation of their respective mandates and goals.

4. For each subsidiary body, information is given concerning its establishment and terms of reference, membership and composition, the term of office of its members, its reporting procedure and the frequency of its sessions. Election of bureaux, multi-year work programmes and working methods are also described, as applicable. Section I contains information on the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, which have been grouped, on the basis of their institutional status, into seven categories: (a) functional commissions, (b) regional commissions, (c) standing committees, (d) ad hoc committees, (e) expert bodies composed of governmental experts, (f) expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity and (g) related bodies.

5. Section II contains information on the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, which have been grouped into two categories: (a) standing bodies and (b) ad hoc bodies.

II. Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

A. Functional commissions

1. Statistical Commission

Terms of reference

6. The Statistical Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 8 (I) of 16 and 18 February 1946. Its terms of reference were set out in resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) of 21 June 1946, and 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971.

7. In accordance with resolutions 8 (I) and 8 (II), the Commission assists the Council:

(a) In promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;

(b) In the coordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies;

(c) In the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat;

(d) In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information;

(e) In promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally.

8. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 1566 (L), the Council considered that the ultimate goal of the work of the Commission should be the achievement of an integrated system in the collection, data processing and dissemination of international statistics by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system with special regard to the requirements of reviewing and appraising

economic and social progress, taking into account the needs of the developing countries.

Membership and composition

9. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1147 (XLI) of 4 August 1966, the Statistical Commission consists of one representative from each of 24 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Five members from African States;

(b) Four members from Asian States;

(c) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Seven members from Western European and other States;

(e) Four members from Eastern European States.

With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments thus elected before the representatives are finally nominated by those Governments and confirmed by the Council. The Council may in addition appoint, in their individual capacity, not more than 12 corresponding members from countries not represented on the Commission, such members to be appointed with the approval of the Governments concerned.

Term of office

10. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 591 (XX) of 5 August 1955).

Reporting procedure

11. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

12. The Commission meets annually for four working days (Council resolution 1999/8 of 26 July 1999).

Multi-year programme of work

13. At its thirty-first session, held in 2000, the Commission noted the proposals of the Secretary-General for a multi-year programme of work for 2000-2003 and requested the Bureau of the Commission to further refine the proposals in the light of the views expressed and comments made by members and observers.

Election and term of office of the Bureau

14. The Bureau is normally elected at the first meeting of the session. The Bureau serves for two years. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution — a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission. The Chairpersonship of the Commission rotates on a geographical basis in principle. There is, at the same time, an understanding among members of the Commission that competence and familiarity with the issues being considered at the session are the most important criteria to be taken into account.

15. To ensure continuity, it is the Commission's normal practice to elect one of the Vice-Chairpersons of the outgoing Bureau to the Chairpersonship of the incoming Bureau. The outgoing Chairperson usually continues to serve on the Bureau.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

16. There is an understanding among members of the Commission that action on draft proposals and texts should be taken without a vote.

17. The Commission takes action on draft proposals submitted by members on the basis of informal consultations. There are no Chairperson's summaries as such.

Utilization of informal consultations

18. It has been the practice in this Commission for the Rapporteur to prepare the texts of the draft report in consultation with the Secretariat and members of the Commission. Informal consultations as such do not take place.

Role of the Secretariat

19. The Secretariat traditionally assists the members of the Commission in the drafting of texts, at the request of delegations, not only with regard to substantive issues but also to facilitate the application of United Nations editorial practices.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

20. The Commission holds a general discussion, sequentially, on each agenda item.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

21. It is not the practice of this Commission to hold panel discussions or question and answer sessions.

2. Commission on Population and Development

Terms of reference

22. The Population Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 3 (III) of 3 October 1946. Its original terms of reference are set out in Council resolution 150 (VII) of 10 August 1948.

23. In paragraph 24 of its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development (see also Economic and Social Council decision 1995/209 of 10 February 1995). In paragraph 23 of the same resolution, the Assembly decided that it, the Council and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] and that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

24. According to the Commission's terms of reference, which were endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1995/55 of 28 July 1995, the Commission is to assist the Council by:

(a) Arranging for studies and advising the Council on:

(i) Population issues and trends, including determinants and consequences;

(ii) Integrating population and development strategies;

(iii) Population and related development policies and programmes;

(iv) Provision of population assistance, upon request, to developing countries and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition;

(v) Any other population and development questions on which either the principal or the subsidiary organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies may seek advice;

(b) Monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the national, regional and global levels, identifying reasons for success and failure, and advising the Council thereon. Such considerations shall include:

(i) Adopting a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Programme of Action. That work programme, inter alia, will provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(ii) Monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action through periodic reports on population trends and policies, population programmes and population and related development activities;

(iii) Reviewing on a regular basis the flow of financial resources and the funding mechanisms to achieve the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action;

(iv) Undertaking a quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and in implementing its recommendations, and reporting its findings to the Council;

(v) Maintaining and enhancing public attention and support for the implementation of the Programme of Action, through the dissemination of its monitoring, review and assessment reports in a concise and clear format;

(vi) Considering the reports of the meetings of inter-agency mechanisms established by the Secretary-General to ensure coordination, collaboration and harmonization in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(c) Providing appropriate recommendations to the Council, on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

25. In addition to those terms of reference, the Council decided that the Commission should review the findings of research and analysis pertaining to the interrelationship between population and development at the national, regional and global levels and advise the Council thereon (resolution 1995/55, para. 3).

Membership and composition

26. In accordance with Council decision 1995/320 of 12 December 1995, the Commission consists of one representative from each of 47 States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Twelve members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asian States;

(c) Five members from Eastern European States;

(d) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Ten members from Western European and other States.

27. In its decision 88 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, the Council decided that, in accordance with established procedures, the Secretary-General should consult with the Governments elected to serve on the Commission about the nomination of their representatives, in order to ensure a balance in representation of the various disciplines covered by the work of the Commission.

28. In order to maintain close liaison between the Commission and other bodies concerned with population issues, it invites representatives from other functional commissions to take part in the proceedings of the Commission without the right to vote.

Term of office

29. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 591 (XX)).

Reporting procedure

30. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

31. The Commission meets annually (General Assembly resolution 49/128 and Council decision 1995/209), usually for five working days.

Multi-year programme of work

32. At its thirty-third session, held in 2000, the Commission adopted its programme of work for the period 2001-2003, with the special themes to be covered by the Commission at its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions (Commission decision 2000/1).

Election and term of office of the Bureau

33. The Bureau of the Commission is elected at the first meeting of the session. The members of the Bureau hold office for one year. In order to ensure continuity, efforts have been made to elect at least one member of the previous Bureau to the incoming one.

34. There is no established practice for rotation of members of the Bureau other than that based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

35. There is no formal or informal agreement that action should be taken by consensus. The Commission takes action through decisions and resolutions.

Utilization of informal consultations

36. The Commission holds informal consultations on all texts under consideration.

Role of the Secretariat

37. The Secretariat plays an active role in promoting action by the Commission and provides support to Member States in the drafting of texts for action.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

38. The Commission holds general discussions on specific topics.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

39. The Commission holds panel discussions and engages in question and answer sessions.

3. Commission for Social Development

Terms of reference

40. The Social Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 10 (II) of 21 June 1946. As a result of a comprehensive reappraisal of the role of the Commission, the Council, in resolution 1139 (XLI) of 29 July 1966, renamed it the Commission for Social Development in order to clarify its role as a preparatory body of the Council in the whole range of social development policy.

41. In accordance with Council resolutions 10 (II) and 1139 (XLI), the terms of reference of the Commission are:

(a) To advise the Council on social questions of a general character and give particular attention to policies designed to promote social progress, to the establishment of social objectives and programme priorities and to social research in areas affecting social and economic development;

(b) To advise the Council on practical measures that may be needed in the social field, including questions of social welfare, community development, urbanization, housing and social defence;

(c) To advise the Council on measures needed for the coordination of activities in the social field and for the recording and exchange of experience among Governments in the formulation and execution of social development policies;

(d) To advise the Council on such international agreements and conventions on any of these matters, as may be required, and on their execution;

(e) To report to the Council on the extent to which the recommendations of the United Nations in the field of social policy are being carried out;

(f) To advise the Council also on vital social problems in respect of which action or recommendations may be required either by the Council itself or by the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 2035 (XX).

42. In its resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995, the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental process in the follow-up to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development.[2]

43. In its resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, on the follow-up to the Summit and the future role of the Commission, the Council added to its terms of reference. It decided that the Commission should assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and should advise the Council thereon, and should:

(a) Improve international understanding on social development through, inter alia, the exchange of information and experience;

(b) Integrate, within the framework of the follow-up to the Summit, consideration of issues relating to the situation of social groups, including a review of relevant United Nations programmes of action related to such groups, and consideration of other sectoral issues;

(c) Identify emerging issues affecting social development that required urgent consideration, and make substantive recommendations thereon;

(d) Make recommendations regarding social development to the Council;

(e) Elaborate practical measures aimed at furthering Summit recommendations;

(f) Identify issues requiring improved system-wide coordination, taking into account substantive inputs from different organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the contributions of other functional commissions concerned, in order to assist the Council in its coordination functions;

(g) Maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

Membership and composition

44. In accordance with Council resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, the Commission is composed of 46 members elected by the Economic and Social Council from among the States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Twelve members from African States;

(b) Ten members from Asian States;

(c) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Five members from Eastern European States;

(e) Ten members from Western European and other States.

In accordance with Council resolution 1139 (XLI), section IV, paragraph 1, the States elected to the Commission should nominate candidates who hold key positions in the planning or execution of national social development policies or other persons qualified to discuss the formulation of social policies in more than one sector of development. With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments selected before the representatives are finally nominated by these Governments and confirmed by the Council.

Term of office

45. The term of office of members is four years (Council decision taken at its 1651st meeting, on 12 January 1970).

Reporting procedure

46. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

47. The Commission meets annually (Council resolution 1996/7), usually for eight working days.

Multi-year programme of work

48. The Commission elaborated a multi-year programme of work for the period 1997-2000 built around the priority themes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995. The Commission prepared a new multi-year programme of work at its thirty-ninth session, in 2001 to cover the years 2002-2006, and taking into account the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development, held in 2000.

Election and term of office of the Bureau

49. The Bureau is normally elected at the first meeting of the session. The members of the Bureau hold office for one year.

50. There is no established practice for rotation of members of the Bureau other than that based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The Chairpersonship of the Commission rotates on a geographical basis but the precise sequence may vary. It is not established practice for a senior Vice-Chairperson to become Chairperson at the following session.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

51. There is no formal agreement that action should be taken by consensus. While the Commission endeavours to take action by consensus, there are occasions when votes may be requested.

52. The Commission normally takes action through the adoption of draft resolutions, draft decisions and agreed conclusions. Chairperson's summaries have, however, on occasion been included in the reports of the Commission as part of the proceedings.

Utilization of informal consultations

53. It has been the practice in this Commission to hold informal consultations on all draft proposals and the draft report.

Role of the Secretariat

54. The Secretariat traditionally assists the members of the Commission in the drafting of texts, at the request of delegations, not only with regard to substantive issues but also to facilitate the application of United Nations editorial practices.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

55. In lieu of a general debate, the Commission holds a general discussion on each agenda item.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

56. The Commission has held a number of panel meetings with invited experts.

57. The Commission holds a dialogue with non-governmental organizations as part of its annual work programme.

4. Commission on Human Rights

Terms of reference

58. The Commission on Human Rights was established by the Council in its resolution 5 (I) of 16 February 1946. By that resolution, as amended by Council resolution 9 (II) of 21 June 1946, the Commission was directed towards submitting proposals, recommendations and reports to the Council regarding an international bill of rights; international declarations or conventions on civil liberties, the status of women, freedom of information and similar matters; the protection of minorities; the prevention of discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language or religion; and any other matter concerning human rights. The Commission also undertakes special tasks assigned to it by the Council, including the investigation of allegations concerning violations of human rights.

59. The Commission also has a mandate to "make studies and recommendations and provide information and other services at the request of the Economic and Social Council" (Council resolution 5 (I), sect. A, para. 3).

60. By resolution 1979/36 of 10 May 1979, the Council added the following provisions to the terms of reference of the Commission:

> "The Commission shall assist the Economic and Social Council in the coordination of activities concerning human rights in the United Nations system."

Membership and composition

61. In accordance with Council resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990, the Commission on Human Rights consists of one representative from each of 53 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Fifteen members from African States;

(b) Twelve members from Asian States;

(c) Eleven members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Ten members from Western European and other States;

(e) Five members from Eastern European States.

With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments thus elected before the representatives are finally nominated by those Governments and confirmed by the Council.

Term of office

62. The term of office of members is three years (Council resolution 9 (II), para. 2 (c)).

Reporting procedure

63. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

64. The Commission meets annually (Council resolution 557 C (XVIII), sect. IV) for six weeks. Under the terms of the annex to Council decision

1993/286 of 28 July 1993, the Commission may meet in special session to deal with urgent and acute human rights situations.

Election and terms of office of the Bureau

65. The Bureau is elected on the first day of the session and serves for a one-year period, until the next session of the Commission. At its fifty-sixth session, held in 2000, the Commission elected a Vice-Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau as Chairperson of the incoming Bureau.

66. The Chairpersonship of the Commission rotates on a strictly geographical basis. It is not established practice for a Vice-Chairperson to become Chairperson at the following session.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

67. The Commission takes action through resolutions and decisions and statements by the Chairperson; the latter are agreed upon by consensus. However, there is no agreement in the Commission that consensus is required for adoption of resolutions and decisions.

Utilization of informal consultations

68. In principle, informal consultations are held on all texts under consideration, unless the Commission is ready to take action immediately on a proposal submitted orally.

Role of the Secretariat

69. The Secretariat may advise, provide information or propose a course of action.

70. While the Secretariat does not officially draft texts for action by the Commission, it may assist in the drafting process at the request of delegations, with regard to specific questions.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

71. The Commission normally holds a general debate on all substantive agenda items that are considered in formal meetings, provided that there are delegations inscribed on the list of speakers.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

72. Since 1998, the Commission selects an annual theme for "special debate" which is introduced by a panel of key speakers. Question and answer sessions are part of such special debates.

Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Human Rights

(a) The Group of Three established under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

73. Article IX of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex, of 30 November 1973) provides that the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights should appoint a group consisting of three members of the Commission, who are also representatives of States Parties to the Convention, to consider reports submitted by States Parties in accordance with article VII of the Convention. The Group was mandated to meet for a period of not more than five days, either before the opening or after the closing of the session of the Commission, to consider the reports submitted in accordance with article VII. The Group reported to the Commission.

74. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/10, the work of the Group of Three has been suspended.

(b) Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

75. The Working Group was created by the Commission in its resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980, by which it decided "to establish for a period of one year a working group consisting of five of its members, to serve as experts in their individual capacities, to examine questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons". Since then, the mandate and terms of reference have been renewed by the Commission each year and since 1985 for a period of two years. The most recent resolution reviewing the mandate of the Working Group is Commission resolution 1998/40 of 17 April 1998. In its decision 1998/255 of 30 July 1998, the Council approved the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the Working Group for a three-year period.

76. The Working Group consists of five members of the Commission, appointed in their personal capacity by the Chairperson of the Commission. As at present constituted, the Working Group has one member each from African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States. Members' terms are limited to two mandates of three years (see Council decision 2000/284). The Working Group reports to the Commission.

(c) Working Group on Situations (which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights)

77. The Working Group on Situations was established by the Commission under the terms of Council resolution 1990/41 of 25 May 1990, which contains the terms of reference of the Working Group, and updated by Council resolution 2000/3 of 16 June 2000 on the procedure for dealing with communications concerning human rights.

78. The Working Group is entrusted with the role of examining the confidential report and recommendations of the Working Group on Communications (see para. 100 below) and determining whether or not to refer a particular situation thus brought before it to the Commission on Human Rights, as well as of examining the particular situations kept under review by the Commission under the procedure, and, accordingly, to place before the Commission a confidential report identifying the main issues of concern, normally together with a draft resolution or a draft decision recommending the action to be taken by the Commission in respect of the situation referred to it.

79. The Working Group consists of five members of the Commission nominated by the regional groups, serving in their personal capacities, and with due attention being paid to rotation in membership. It includes one member each from Asian States, African States, Latin American and Caribbean States, Eastern European States and Western European and other States. The Working Group reports to the Commission.

(d) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

80. The Working Group was established for a three-year period by the Commission in its resolution 1991/42 of 5 March 1991, approved by the Council in its decision 1991/243 of 31 May 1991. Commission resolution 1997/50 spells out its revised mandate, which is "to investigate cases of detention imposed arbitrarily, provided that no final decision has been taken in such cases by local courts in conformity with domestic law, with the relevant standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with the relevant international instruments accepted by the States concerned". The Working Group is also mandated to examine issues related to the administrative custody of asylum-seekers and immigrants.

81. The Working Group is currently composed of five individual members from five different regional groups. Members' terms are limited to two mandates of three years (see Council decision 2000/284). The Working Group reports to the Commission.

82. The most recent resolution renewing the mandate of the Working Group is Commission resolution 2000/36 of 20 April 2000. In its decision 2000/263 of 28 July 2000, the Council approved the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the Working Group for a three-year period.

(e) Open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development

83. In its resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998, approved by the Council in its decision 1998/269 of 30 July 1998, the Commission established the open-ended working group on the right to development as a follow-up mechanism to the Declaration on the Right to Development, with the following mandate: (a) to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, at the national and international levels, providing recommendations thereon and further analysing obstacles to its full enjoyment, focusing each year on specific commitments in the Declaration; (b) to review reports and other information submitted by States, United Nations agencies, other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations on the relationship between their activities and the right to development; and (c) to present for the consideration of the Commission on Human Rights a sessional report on its deliberations, including advice to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to the implementation of the right to development, and

suggesting possible programmes of technical assistance at the request of interested countries with the aim of promoting the implementation of the right to development.

84. The Open-ended Working Group, initially established for a period of three years, succeeds two previous bodies: a working group on the right to development mandated to identify obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration (Commission resolution 1993/22 of 4 March 1993); and an intergovernmental group of experts with a mandate to elaborate a strategy for the implementation and promotion of the right to development (Commission resolution 1996/15 of 11 April 1996). The Open-ended Working Group held its first session in September 2000 and will hold its second session early in 2001, so as to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh session, in 2001 (Commission resolution 2000/5 of 13 April 2000).

(f) Open-ended Working Group on a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

85. The Working Group was established by the Commission in its resolution 1992/43 of 3 March 1992 to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, intended to establish a preventive system of visits to places of detention. The Working Group has been established annually since then. In its decision 2000/265 of 28 July 2000, the Council authorized the Working Group to meet for a period of two weeks prior to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, to be held in 2001. As an open-ended working group, it is open to all participants in the work of the Commission and reports to the Commission.

(g) Open-ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

86. The Working Group was established by the Commission in its resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995 with the sole purpose of elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly within the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In its resolution 1995/32 of 25 July 1995, the Council authorized the establishment of the working group. The most recent resolution renewing the mandate of the Working Group is Commission resolution 2000/57 of 25 April 2000. In its decision 2000/272 of 28 July 2000, the Council authorized the Working Group to meet for a period of 10 days prior to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission.

87. As an open-ended working group, it is open to all participants in the work of the Commission and reports to the Commission. As per Commission resolution 1995/32, the Working Group is also open to the participation of indigenous organizations without consultative status with the Council; a specific procedure is to be applied in such cases.

(h) Open-ended Working Group established to elaborate policy guidelines on structural adjustments programmes and economic, social and cultural rights

88. In its decision 1996/203, the Commission decided to establish an Open-ended Working Group to elaborate policy guidelines on structural adjustments and economic, social and cultural rights. Since then, the mandate of the Working Group has been renewed on an annual basis. In its decision 2000/21 of 16 June 2000, the Council approved the decision of the Commission to authorize the Working Group to meet for two weeks well before the fifty-seventh session of the Commission with the mandate: (a) to continue working on the elaboration of basic policy guidelines on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights which could serve as a basis for a continued dialogue between human rights bodies and international financial institutions; and (b) to report to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session (Commission resolution 2000/82 of 26 April 2000).

(i) Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Terms of reference

89. The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was established by the Commission under the authority of Council resolution 9 (II), with the following mandate:

(a) To undertake studies, particularly in the light of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to make recommendations to the Commission concerning the prevention of discrimination of any

kind relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms and the protection of racial, national, religious and linguistic minorities;

(b) To perform any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Council or the Commission.

In 1999, the Council changed the title of the Subcommission to Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Council decision 1999/256 of 27 July 1999). The Commission on Human Rights also modified the mandate of the Subcommission (decision 2000/109 of 26 April 2000, annex, chap. IV) with regard to some of its tasks and methods of work.

Membership and composition

90. The Subcommission consists of 26 independent experts, elected by the Commission from nominations of experts made by Member States on the following basis (Council resolution 1334 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and decision 1978/21 of 5 May 1978):

(a) Seven members from African States;

(b) Five members from Asian States;

(c) Six members from Western European and other States;

(d) Five members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Three members from Eastern European States.

The Commission addressed membership issues of the Subcommission in its decision 2000/109 (see annex, chap. IV) of 26 April 2000.

Term of office

91. The term of office of members is four years.

Subsidiary bodies of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

(i) Working Group on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

92. In its resolution 1995/24 of 3 March 1995, the Commission authorized the Subcommission to establish, initially for a three-year period, an inter-sessional working group consisting of five of its members, to meet each year for five working days in order to promote the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (General Assembly resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, annex). The terms of reference of the Working Group are contained in Commission resolution 1995/24. In its resolution 1995/31 of 25 July 1995, the Council authorized the establishment of the Working Group of the Subcommission.

93. In its decision 1998/246 of 30 July 1998, the Council endorsed the Commission's decision (Commission resolution 1998/19 of 9 April 1998) to extend the mandate of the Working Group with a view to its holding one session of five working days annually.

(ii) Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

94. The Working Group on Slavery was established by the Subcommission in its resolution 11 (XXVII) in pursuance of Council decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, and 1980/127 of 2 May 1980. It meets for five working days prior to each session of the Subcommission (Commission decision 2000/109 of 26 April 2000), reviews developments in the field of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others as they are defined in the Slavery Convention of 25 September 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 30 April 1956 and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 2 December 1949. The Working Group is composed of five members of the Subcommission appointed by the Chairman of the Subcommission as authorized by Council decision 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974. Members are appointed on the following geographical basis: one each from African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, Eastern European, and Western European and other States.

(iii) Working Group on Indigenous Populations

95. The Working Group was established by the Subcommission pursuant to Council resolution 1982/34 of 7 May 1982. It meets annually for up to five days prior to each session of the Subcommission. Its terms of reference are contained in Subcommission resolution 2 (XXIV) of 8 September 1981. The mandate requires the Working Group (a) to review developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous populations, including information requested by the Secretary-General annually from Governments, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status, particularly those of indigenous peoples, to analyse such materials, and to submit its conclusions to the Subcommission, bearing in mind the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission and (b) to give special attention to the evolution of standards concerning the rights of indigenous populations, taking account of both the similarities and the differences in the situations and aspirations of indigenous populations throughout the world. The Working Group consists of five members of the Subcommission on the following geographical basis: one each from African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, Eastern European, and Western European and other States. The Working Group's sessions are open to all representatives of indigenous peoples and their communities and organizations.

(iv) Sessional Working Group on the methods of work of the Subcommission

96. The Working Group was first established in 1990 pursuant to Subcommission decision 1989/104 of 30 August 1989. Since then, the Working Group has been reconvened repeatedly, most recently in 1999. Composed of five members of the Subcommission, one of each regional group, it has met during the sessions of the Subcommission, except for 1992, when an inter-sessional meeting was convened.

(v) Sessional Working Group on the Administration of Justice

97. The Working Group on Detention was originally established in accordance with Subcommission resolution 7 (XXVII) of 20 August 1974 in order to review the situation concerning the rights of persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment. In 1994, the Subcommission decided to change the name of the Working Group to the Working Group on the Administration of Justice and the Question of Compensation (see decision 1994/104 of 2 August 1994) and in 1997, to the Working Group on the Administration of Justice (see decision 1997/102 of 5 August 1997). Except for 1999, when the Working Group was not established, it met every year during the sessions of the Subcommission. At its fifty-second session, in 2000, the Subcommission proposed to convene a working group for two days prior to the session of the Subcommission (Subcommission resolution 2000/5 of 17 August 2000). This issue will be taken up by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh session, in 2001. The Working Group is composed of five members of the Subcommission, with each regional group nominating one expert.

(vi) Sessional Working Group on the working methods and activities of transnational corporations

98. The Working Group was established for a three-year period by Subcommission resolution 1998/8 of 20 August 2000, with the following mandate: (a) to identify and examine the effects of the working methods and activities on transnational corporations on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, as well as civil and political rights; (b) to examine, receive and gather information, including any working paper prepared by a member of the Subcommission, on this matter; (c) to analyse the compatibility of the various international human rights instruments with the various investment agreements, regional as well as international, including the Multilateral Agreement on Investments; (d) to make recommendations and proposals in order to ensure that the working methods and activities of transnational corporations are in keeping with economic and social objectives of the countries in which they operate, and to promote the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, as well as civil and political rights; (e) to prepare each year a list of countries and transnational corporations, indicating, in United States dollars, their gross national product or financial turnover, respectively; (f) to consider the scope of the obligation of States to regulate the activities of transnational corporations, where their activities have or are likely to have a significant impact on human rights of all persons within their jurisdiction.

99. The Working Group meets during the sessions of the Subcommission. It is composed of five members of the Subcommission, with each regional group nominating one expert.

(j) Working Group on Communications

100. The Working Group was originally established by the Subcommission in its resolution 2 (XXIV) in pursuance of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). It is entrusted with the implementation of the procedures for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms established by the Council. According to Council resolution 2000/3 of 16 June 2000 on the procedure for dealing with communications concerning human rights, the Working Group meets annually for two weeks, immediately following the annual session of the Subcommission, to examine the communications received and any government replies thereto, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Working Group on Situations (see para. 78 above) any particular situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

101. The Working Group on Communications comprises five independent experts, members of the Subcommission, geographically representative of the five regional groups (one each from African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, Eastern European, and Western European and other States). All members of the Subcommission are eligible for membership, with an appropriate rotation of membership encouraged.

5. Commission on the Status of Women

Terms of reference

102. The Commission on the Status of Women was established by the Council in its resolution 11 (II) of 21 June 1946 to prepare recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields and to make recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights with the object of implementing the principle that men and women shall have equal rights, and to develop proposals to give effect to such recommendations. In its resolution 1987/22 of 26 May 1987, the Council decided to expand the terms of reference of the Commission to include the functions of promoting the objectives of equality, development and peace, monitoring the implementation of measures for the advancement of women, and reviewing and appraising progress made at the national, subregional, regional, sectoral and global levels.

103. In its resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[3] the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, the Council and the Commission, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action adopted at the Conference. The Assembly also decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, should have a central role in the monitoring of the implementation of the Platform for Action within the United Nations system and in advising the Council thereon.

104. In its resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Council further modified the terms of reference of the Commission. It decided that the Commission should:

(a) Assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at all levels, and should advise the Council thereon;

(b) Continue to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities and develop further its catalytic role in that regard in other areas;

(c) Identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination function;

(d) Identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that required consideration and make substantive recommendations thereon;

(e) Maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Platform for Action.

Membership and composition

105. In accordance with Council resolution 1989/45 of 24 May 1989, the Commission consists of one representative from each of 45 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Thirteen members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asian States;

(c) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Eight members from Western European and other States;

(e) Four members from Eastern European States.

With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments thus elected before the representatives are finally nominated by those Governments and confirmed by the Council.

Term of office

106. The term of office of members is four years (Council decision of 31 July 1970).

Reporting procedure

107. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

108. In pursuance of Council resolution 1987/21 of 26 May 1987, and Council decision 1999/257 of 28 July 1999, the Commission meets annually for a period of 10 working days.

Multi-year programme of work

109. The Commission elaborated a multi-year programme of work for the first time in 1987 (see Council resolution 1987/24 of 26 May 1987). In 1996, following the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a multi-year programme of work was adopted for the period 1997-2000 (Council resolution 1996/6) and subsequently implemented. At its forty-fourth session, in 2000, the Commission decided that it would consider its next multi-year programme of work at its forty-fifth session, in 2001 in order to take into account the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Election and term of office of the Bureau

110. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, Bureau members serve for two years. Since the Commission meets annually, Bureau members are elected at the beginning of every other session.

111. There is no formalized practice for rotation of members of the Bureau other than that based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

112. There is an understanding among members of the Commission on the desirability of taking action by consensus. If consensus is not possible, the Commission will take action by voting.

113. The Commission decided, at its fortieth session, in 1996, that the results of its dialogues would normally be reflected in concise, action-oriented agreed conclusions, and it adopted agreed conclusions for the first time at that session. It is continuing to examine the options available to it for the expression of its action proposals.

Utilization of informal consultations

114. The Commission holds informal consultations as the status of negotiations requires.

Role of the Secretariat

115. The Secretariat provides information, identifies options available and assists in drafting proposals, at the request of delegations. It prepares proposals for the organization of the sessions and the conduct of business and drafts the final report.

Inclusion of a general debate

116. The Commission does not hold a general debate. It does, however, engage in a brief general discussion at the beginning of each session on the primary agenda item, such as the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

117. The Commission holds substantive panel discussions, whose participants are decided upon in close consultation with the members of the Bureau (see Commission agreed conclusions 1996/1 on the Commission's methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women). In addition to the panel discussions, the Commission makes provision for a dialogue among Governments on the various agenda items.

6. Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Terms of reference

A. Functional commission of the Council

118. The Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 9 (I) of 16 February 1946, which laid down the following terms of reference:

"The Commission shall:

(a) Assist the Council in exercising such powers of supervision over the application of international conventions and agreements dealing with narcotic drugs as may be assumed by or conferred on the Council;

(b) Carry out such functions entrusted to the League of Nations Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs by the international conventions in narcotic drugs as the Council may find necessary to assume and continue;

(c) Advise the Council on all matters pertaining to the control of narcotic drugs, and prepare such draft international conventions as may be necessary;

(d) Consider what changes may be required in the existing machinery for the international control of narcotic drugs and submit proposals thereon to the Council;

(e) Perform such other functions relating to narcotic drugs as the Council may direct."

B. Treaty and normative functions

Drug control conventions

119. The Commission performs the functions assigned to it by the international drug control treaties, particularly article 8 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 30 March 1961, as amended by the Protocol of 25 March 1972, and with article 17 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 21 February 1971, and in article 21 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 19 December 1988. Pursuant to these provisions, the Commission is, inter alia, authorized to consider all matters pertaining to the aims of the Conventions, and their implementation. As a treaty organ under the 1961 and 1971 Conventions, the Commission decides, on the basis of recommendations of the World Health Organization, to place, remove or transfer narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control. Pursuant to the 1988 Convention the Commission decides, upon the recommendation of the International Narcotics Control Board to place or transfer precursor chemicals frequently used for the manufacture of illicit drugs in Table I or Table II of the 1988 Convention.

The General Assembly: countering the world drug problem

120. The General Assembly at its twentieth special session on the world drug problem (8-10 June 1998) requested Member States to report biennially to the Commission on their efforts to meet the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 agreed upon in the Political Declaration. The Assembly requested the Commission to analyse these reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem. The Commission will consider the first biennial report on the implementation of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session in 2001 and subsequent reports in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008.

C. Governing body of UNDCP

121. In Council resolution 1991/38 of 21 June 1991, the Commission was requested to give policy guidance to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and to monitor its activities.

122. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/185 C, Section XVI of 20 December 1991, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs approves, on the basis of the proposals of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the programme budget of the Fund of UNDCP and the administrative and programme support costs budget. The Fund was established by the General Assembly, as of 1 January 1992, under the direct responsibility of the Executive Director of UNDCP to finance the Programme's operational activities. The Fund accounts for over 90 per cent of the resources available to the United Nations for drug control.

Membership

123. The membership of the Commission was increased from 40 to 53 by the Council in its resolution 1991/49 of 21 June 1991, with the following distribution of seats among the regional groups:

(a) Eleven for African States;

(b) Eleven for Asian States;

(c) Ten for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Seven for Eastern European States;

(e) Fourteen for Western European and other States;

(f) One seat to rotate between the Asian States and the Latin American and Caribbean States every four years.

124. In accordance with Council resolution 845 (XXXII), section II, and 1147 (XLI), members are elected (a) from among the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the Parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, (b) with due regard to the adequate representation of countries that are important producers of opium or coca leaves, of countries that are important in the field of the manufacture of narcotic drugs, and of countries in which drug addiction or the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs constitutes an important problem and (c) taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Term of office

125. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 1156 (XLI), sect. II).

Reporting procedure

126. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

127. By resolution 1991/39 of 21 June 1991, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission should meet annually for a period not exceeding eight working days. The Council also decided that the Commission should establish the Committee of the Whole to examine specific technical items on the agenda referred to it by the Commission, as well as draft decisions and draft resolutions. The Committee meets concurrently with the annual session of the Commission for a period not exceeding four working days.

128. The Council also decided that a reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be held in December of odd-numbered years to approve the initial programme and support budget for the following biennium and the final version of the programme and support budget for the biennium that was drawing to a close for the Fund of UNDCP.

Multi-year programme of work

129. The agenda of the Commission at each session foresees specific themes to be addressed under the item "Thematic debate". At its forty-third session (2000), the Commission agreed on the themes for the forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions.

Election and term of office of the Bureau

130. With effect from the year 2000, the Commission, at the end of its session, elects the bureau for the next session (Council resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999). The newly elected bureau plays an active role in the preparations of the session, through inter-sessional meetings of the Commission convened to address organizational and substantive matters related to the work of the Commission. Another goal of the inter-sessional meetings of the Commission is to provide continuous and effective policy guidance to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (Council resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999).

131. In view of the rotation of offices based on regional distribution, the officers at the forty-fourth

session of the Commission in 2001 are from the following regional groups: the Chairperson is from Eastern Europe; the Vice-Chairpersons from the Western Europe and other group, the Latin American and the Caribbean group and the African group and the rapporteur from the Asian group of States.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

132. Action by the Commission is taken through resolutions and decisions. Decisions and resolutions are generally taken by consensus; however, decisions provided for in article 2 and 3 of the 1971 Convention and article 12 of the 1988 Convention are taken by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Commission. To adopt these decisions, an affirmative vote of at least 35 members of the Commission is required. Other decisions by the Commission under the Single Convention are subject to a majority requirement as provided for in the Commission's rules of procedure.

Inter-sessional meetings of the Commission

Utilization of informal consultations

133. Informal consultations have proven to be very useful to refine or merge draft resolutions, as well as to finalize the items to be included in the provisional agenda and the documentation requirements for the next session.

Role of the Secretariat

134. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme serves as the substantive secretariat of the Commission.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

135. During the "thematic debate", the Commission on Narcotic Drugs makes use of panellists selected for their expertise, with due consideration to geographical balance, to have in inter-active dialogue in the Commission.

136. During the operational segment of its agenda there is a dialogue between Member States (donors, middle income and recipient countries) and UNDCP on priorities and policies, on the basis of an annual report on the activities of UNDCP by its Executive Director and proposals for the budget of the Fund of UNDCP.

Subsidiary organs of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

(a) Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

137. The Subcommission was established, subject to the approval of the Council, by resolution 6 (XXV) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Council, in resolution 1776 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, authorized the establishment of the Subcommission.

138. The functions of the Subcommission are to coordinate regional activities directed against illicit drug traffic and to formulate recommendations to the Commission.

139. The members are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen. States from outside the region may attend as observers. Relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as United Nations bodies may be invited. The Subcommission reports directly to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and meets annually for a period of five days.

(b) Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies

140. The purpose of these meetings is to coordinate activities directed against illicit drug traffic within the respective regions. Having been granted the status of subsidiary organs of the Commission, their reports and recommendations are submitted to the Commission.

(i) Asia and Pacific region (Council resolutions 1845 (LVI) and 1988/15)

141. Membership is open to any State or territory that is a member or associate member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Other States outside the region may be invited by the Secretary-General to send observers at their own expense. The meeting takes place annually.

(ii) African region (Council resolutions 1985/11 and 1988/15)

142. Membership is open to any State that is a member of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Other States outside the region may be invited by the Secretary-General to send observers at their own expense. The meeting takes place annually.

(iii) Latin American and Caribbean region (Council resolutions 1987/34 and 1988/15)

143. Membership is open to any State or territory that is a member or associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Other States outside the region may be invited by the Secretary-General to send observers at their own expense. The meeting takes place annually.

(iv) European region (Council resolutions 1990/30 and 1993/36)

144. Membership is open to any State that is a member of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Other States outside the region may be invited by the Secretary-General to send observers at their own expense. The meeting takes place once every three years.

7. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Terms of reference

145. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was established as a functional commission of the Council in Council resolution 1992/1 of 6 February 1992 to replace the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

146. Under its terms of reference (see General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, annex), the Commission has the following functions:

(a) To provide policy guidance to the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(b) To develop, monitor and review the implementation of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme on the basis of a system of medium-term planning in accordance with the following priority principles: (i) empirical evidence, including research findings and other information on the nature and extent of crime and on trends in crime; (ii) the social, financial and other costs of various forms of crimes and/or crime control to the individual, the local, national and international community, and to the development process; (iii) the need of developing or developed countries to have recourse to experts and other resources necessary for establishing and developing programmes for crime prevention and criminal justice that are appropriate at the national and local levels; (iv) the need for a balance within the programme of work between programme development and practical action; (v) the protection of human rights in the administration of justice and the prevention and control of crime; (vi) the assessment of areas in which concerted action at the international level and within the framework of the programme would be most effective; and (vii) avoidance of overlapping with the activities of other entities of the United Nations system or of other organizations;

(c) To facilitate and help to coordinate the activities of the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders;

(d) To mobilize the support of Member States for the programme;

(e) To prepare for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and to consider suggestions regarding possible subjects for the programme of work as submitted by the congresses.

Membership and composition

147. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Commission has 40 members. Its seats are distributed as follows:

(a) Twelve seats to African States;

(b) Nine seats to Asian States;

(c) Four seats to Eastern European States;

(d) Eight seats to Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Seven seats to Western European and other States.

Term of office

148. In paragraph 24 of the annex to its resolution 46/152, the General Assembly decided that the term of office should be three years.

Reporting procedure

149. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. However, the report of the quinquennial United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is issued as a document of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

150. In accordance with paragraph (b) of Council decision 1993/242 of 27 July 1993, the Commission meets annually for a period of eight days. However, the ninth session of the Commission, held in 2000, had a shortened duration of three days, following the Tenth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

Multi-year programme of work

151. In section I of its resolution 6/1 of 1997, the Commission decided to establish a multi-year work plan, with each session of the Commission being devoted to a specific major theme. In its resolution 9/1 of 2000, the Commission decided to continue to follow its established multi-year programme of work, according to which each session of the Commission would have one prominent theme. It decided that the theme for its tenth session (2001) would be "Progress made in global action against corruption".

Election and term of office of the Bureau

152. The Bureau is normally elected at the first meeting of the session. Its members hold office for one year. To ensure continuity, the Commission has adopted the practice of electing at least one of the retiring officers of the previous bureau to serve on the incoming bureau.

153. There is no special arrangement for a senior Vice-Chairperson to become Chairperson at the following session. The members of the Bureau rotate in accordance with Commission decision 1/101: that is, the Chairperson for 2001 will come from Asian and Pacific States, the Chairperson for 2002 will come from African States; the Chairperson for 2003 will come from Eastern European States; the Chairperson for 2004 will come from Latin American and Caribbean States; and the Chairperson for 2005 will come from Western European and other States. Likewise, the post of Rapporteur rotates according to a specific pattern.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

154. By informal agreement, action is taken by consensus. Thus far, action has been taken through resolutions and decisions. At the fourth and fifth sessions of the Commission, the Chairperson, with the assistance of the Secretariat, prepared a Chairperson summary at the conclusion of the discussion of each agenda item.

Utilization of informal consultations

155. Most draft resolutions are discussed and agreed upon during informal consultations. This is accomplished through the establishment of parallel sessions of open-ended working groups or committees of the whole, chaired by one of the Vice-Chairpersons.

Role of the Secretariat

156. The Secretariat plays an active role by assisting the Commission in identifying options available to the Commission and advising it on viable solutions. Reports prepared by the Centre for International Crime Prevention include concrete proposals for action.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

157. The Commission does not hold a general debate, but a thematic discussion on a priority issue identified at its previous sessions.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

158. At its tenth session, in 2001, the Commission will hold panel discussions. The Commission holds regular open-ended inter-sessional meetings. The Bureau of the Commission reports annually to the Commission on its inter-sessional work, as called for by resolution 6/1.

8. Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Terms of reference

159. In its decision 1992/218 of 30 April 1992, the Council established the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as a functional commission and as the successor to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its subsidiary body, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The Intergovernmental Committee had been established in General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979, by which the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development.[4] Council decision 1992/218 was adopted pursuant to Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. Further, in its resolution 1992/62 of 31 July 1992, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission.

160. The consolidated mandate of the Commission is derived from General Assembly resolutions 34/218, 41/183 of 8 December 1986, 44/14 A to E of 26 October 1989, and 46/235, as well as from the annex to resolution 7 (II) of 4 June 1980 of the Intergovernmental Committee, and specifies the following functions:

(a) Promoting and catalysing international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, in particular in developing countries, and in helping solve global scientific and technological problems;

(b) Formulating policy guidelines for the harmonization of policies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to scientific and technological activities, on the basis of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(c) Promoting the improvement of linkages between the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to ensuring the coordinated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(d) Identifying priorities for activities within the Vienna Programme of Action with a view to facilitating operational planning at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels;

(e) Monitoring the activities and programmes related to science and technology within the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(f) Promoting the optimum mobilization of resources in order to enable the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to carry out the activities of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(g) Providing directives and policy-making guidance to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development;

(h) The early identification and assessment of new scientific and technological developments that may adversely affect the development process as well as those that may have specific and potential importance for that process and for strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries;

(i) Choosing subjects of particular significance with major science and technology dimensions with a view to providing an assessment of technology and related policy analysis in order to facilitate the debate of the question in the Assembly;

(j) Providing, at the request of the Council, such scientific and technical expert advice as may be necessary for the discharge of the mandate of the Council;

(k) Providing also, through the Council, expert advice to other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system.

Membership and composition

161. In accordance with Council resolutions 1998/46 and 1998/47 of 31 July 1998, the Commission has 33 members, with the following geographical distribution:

(a) Eight members from African States;

(b) Seven members from Asian States;

(c) Six members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Four members from Eastern European States;

(e) Eight members from Western European and other States.

Term of office

162. The term of office of members is four years (General Assembly resolution 46/235, annex, para. 7 (a) (ii)).

Reporting procedure

163. As a functional commission, the Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Timing of meetings

164. The Commission meets biennially for a period of two weeks (General Assembly resolution 46/235, annex, para. 7 (a) (v), reaffirmed in Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998).

Multi-year programme of work

165. The Commission has not adopted a multi-year programme of work. However, the Council, in its resolution 1999/61 of 30 July 1999, decided that the substantive theme for the Commission's inter-sessional period 1999-2001 would be "Strengthening national capacities in the field of biotechnology".

Election and term of office of the Bureau

166. At the end of each session, the Commission elects its Bureau for the following session. Since the Commission meets every two years, the Bureau retains its functions during the inter-sessional period.

167. There is no special arrangement for a senior Vice-Chairperson to become Chairperson at the following session. The rotation of members of the Bureau is based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

168. There has been an informal understanding among members of the Commission that decisions should be made by consensus. The Commission normally takes action on draft proposals without a vote.

169. The Commission takes action on draft resolutions and decisions. It does not take action on the basis of Chairperson's summaries or agreed conclusions. Chairperson's summaries have, however, been included in the report of the Commission.

Utilization of informal consultations

170. Informal consultations are held on all draft proposals and the draft report.

Role of the Secretariat

171. The Secretariat traditionally assists the members of the Commission in the drafting of texts, at the request of delegations, not only with regard to substantive issues but also to facilitate the application of United Nations editorial practices.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

172. A general discussion is held on each individual agenda item.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

173. At its second session, the Commission decided that it would carry out its work programme at future sessions, inter alia, through panels, experts or working groups.

9. Commission on Sustainable Development

Terms of reference

174. The Commission on Sustainable Development was established as a functional commission of the Council in Council decision 1993/207 of 12 February 1993, pursuant to a request of the General Assembly in paragraph 2 of its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992. According to paragraph 2 of that resolution, the purpose of the Commission is to ensure effective follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and to examine the progress of the implementation of Agenda 21[5] at the national, regional and international levels in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries.

175. The terms of reference of the Commission are contained in paragraphs 3 to 5 of Assembly resolution 47/191, and include the following functions:

(a) To monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals throughout the United Nations system through analysis and reports from all relevant organs, organizations, programmes and institutions of the United Nations system dealing with various issues of environment and development, including those related to finance;

(b) To consider information provided by Governments, for example, in the form of periodic communications or national reports regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the problems they face, such as problems related to financial resources and technology transfer, and other environment and development issues they find relevant;

(c) To review the progress in the implementation of the commitments set forth in Agenda 21, including those related to the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology;

(d) To review and monitor regularly progress towards the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for official development assistance;

(e) To review on a regular basis the adequacy of funding and mechanisms, including efforts to reach the objectives agreed in chapter 33 of Agenda 21, including targets where applicable;

(f) To receive and analyse relevant input from competent non-governmental organizations, including the scientific and the private sector, in the context of the overall implementation of Agenda 21;

(g) To enhance the dialogue, within the framework of the United Nations, with non-governmental organizations and the independent sector, as well as other entities outside the United Nations system;

(h) To consider, where appropriate, information regarding the progress made in the implementation of environmental conventions, which could be made available by the relevant conferences of parties;

(i) To consider, at an appropriate time, the results of the review to be conducted expeditiously by the Secretary-General of all recommendations of the Conference for capacity-building programmes, information networks, task forces and other mechanisms to support the integration of environment and development at regional and subregional levels;

(j) To monitor progress in promoting, facilitating and financing, as appropriate, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21.

Membership and composition

176. In accordance with Council decision 1993/207, the Commission on Sustainable Development consists of one representative from each of 53 members elected by the Council from among the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Thirteen members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asian States;

(c) Six members from Eastern European States;

(d) Ten members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Thirteen members from Western European and other States.

Term of office

177. The term of office is three years (Council decision 1993/207, para. (b)).

Reporting procedure

178. The Commission reports directly to the Council; its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. The Commission is also to provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Council, on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21 (Assembly resolution 47/191, para. 3 (i)).

Frequency of meetings

179. The Commission meets annually for a period of two to three weeks (General Assembly resolution 47/191, para. 9).

Multi-year programme of work

180. Since its establishment in 1993, the Commission has worked on the basis of five-year programmes of work. The current programme covers the period of 1998-2002. The Commission will act as open-ended preparatory committee for the World Summit for Sustainable Development, to be held in 2002; in that capacity, the Commission will, inter alia, address ways of strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development and evaluate and define the role and programme of work of the Commission (Assembly resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000).

Election and term of office of the Bureau

181. Immediately after the conclusion of a session, the Commission elects the Bureau for its subsequent session. The general principle of geographical rotation is observed. There is no senior Vice-Chairperson. The newly elected Bureau is encouraged to play an active role in the preparations of the next regular session, as well as of informal inter-sessional meetings of the Commission.

Modalities for taking action

182. The Commission has agreed informally that it will take action by consensus. Reports of the Commission have included resolutions and decisions. There is also a Chairperson's summary, as appropriate.

Utilization of informal consultations

183. The Commission conducts its work utilizing the format of a plenary meeting and up to three working groups. The Commission does not hold informal consultations as such.

Role of the Secretariat

184. According to the established practice of the Commission, following discussion of the reports of the Secretary-General, the Secretariat prepares, under each agenda item, a negotiating paper reflecting the views and comments expressed by delegations. Further rounds of negotiations take place on these papers, which ultimately are incorporated in the report as decisions of the Commission.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

185. There is a short general debate at the beginning of the regular sessions of the Commission.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

186. The Commission organizes panel discussions for several agenda items and these are followed by a question and answer session with the panel. The panels include guests from the private sector, ministers or former ministers and representatives of United Nations organizations. The Commission normally holds a high-level segment, which includes a panel discussion with ministerial participation. The panels include eminent participants from within and outside the United Nations system.

Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Sustainable Development

(a) Ad hoc open-ended working groups

187. The Commission establishes inter-sessional ad hoc open-ended working groups to address specific issues within its work programme.

(b) Ad hoc open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on energy and sustainable development

188. Pursuant to Assembly resolution S-19/2 (annex), the Commission established an open-ended intergovernmental group of experts on energy and sustainable development, to meet in conjunction with inter-sessional meetings of the eighth (2000) and ninth (2001) sessions of the Commission.

189. Pursuant to Council resolution 1999/60 and decision 1999/285, the first session of the group of experts was held from 6 to 10 March 2000.

10. United Nations Forum on Forests

Terms of reference

190. The United Nations Forum on Forests was established as a subsidiary body of the Council by Council resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000. The

main objective of this international arrangement on forests is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. The purpose of such an international arrangement would be to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests, at the national, regional and global levels. The resolution also sets out the principal functions of the Forum, as follows:

> "(a) Facilitate and promote the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action as well as other actions which may be agreed upon, including through national forest programmes and other integrated programmes relevant to forests; catalyse, mobilize and generate financial resources; and mobilize and channel technical and scientific resources to this end, including by taking steps towards the broadening and development of mechanisms and/or further initiatives to enhance international cooperation;
>
> (b) Provide a forum for continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, which would involve international organizations and other interested parties, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, to foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management and to address forest issues and emerging areas of priority concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner;
>
> (c) Enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as contribute to synergies among them, including coordination among donors;
>
> (d) Foster international cooperation, including North-South and public-private partnerships, as well as cross-sectoral cooperation at the national, regional and global levels;
>
> (e) Monitor and assess progress at the national, regional and global levels through reporting by Governments, as well as by regional and international organizations, institutions and instruments, and on this basis consider future actions needed;
>
> (f) Strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests through ministerial engagement; developing ways to liaise with the governing bodies of international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments; and the promotion of action-oriented dialogue and policy formulation related to forests."

191. In its resolution 2000/35, the Council also decided that in order to carry out the above functions, the Forum would (a) consider, within five years, on the basis of the assessment referred to in paragraph (e) of the terms of reference, the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, and recommend it to the Council, and through it, to the Assembly, and (b) take steps to devise approaches towards appropriate financial and technology transfer support to enable the implementation of sustainable forest management.

Membership

192. The Forum is a subsidiary body of the Council composed of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies, with full and equal participation, including voting rights. It is open to all States and operates in a transparent and participatory manner. Relevant international and regional organizations, including regional economic integration organizations, institutions and instruments, as well as major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, are also involved.

193. The Forum operates under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council. The supplementary arrangements established by the Council for the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decision 1993/215 and 1995/201 also apply to the Forum. Travel expenses for one representative of each of those member States of the Forum which is also a member State of the Commission on Sustainable Development, participating in a session of the Forum are paid for from the regular budget of the United Nations.[6]

194. Paragraph 4 of Council resolution 2000/35 also sets out the other working modalities for the Forum.

Reporting procedure

195. The Forum reports to the Council and through it to the General Assembly. The reports on its sessions will also be made available to relevant United Nations bodies and other international forest-related organizations, instruments and intergovernmental processes to strengthen synergies and coordination in policy development and implementation of forest-related activities. The Forum maintains close links with the Commission on Sustainable Development including through the convening of joint bureau meetings.

Frequency of meeting

196. The Forum will initially meet annually, for a period of up to two weeks. Its first substantive session will be held in 2001. The Forum is expected to have a high-level ministerial segment for two to three days, as required. The high-level segment could include a one-day policy dialogue with the heads of organizations participating in the collaborative partnership on forests, as well as other forest-related international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments.

Multi-year programme of work

197. The Forum will work on the basis of a multi-year programme of work, drawing on the elements reflected in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Forest Principles, chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action. The Forum is expected to adopt a multi-year programme of work at its first substantive session in 2001 (Council resolution 2000/35, paras. 4 (g), and 7 (b))

Election and term of office of the Bureau

198. The Bureau of the Forum consists of one Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom also acts as Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Immediately following the closure of a session, the Forum holds its first meeting of its subsequent session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau. The members of the Bureau hold office for a term of one year.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

199. There is no formal or informal agreement that action should be taken by consensus. The Forum takes action through decisions and resolutions.

Utilization of informal consultations

200. The Forum normally holds informal consultations on all texts under consideration.

Role of the Secretariat

201. The Secretariat plays an active role in promoting action by the Forum and it assists in the drafting of texts for action.

B. Regional commissions

1. Economic Commission for Africa

Terms of reference

202. The Economic Commission for Africa was established by the Council in its resolution 671 A (XXV) of 29 April 1958, which set forth the following terms of reference:

> "The Economic Commission for Africa, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic and Social Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, with a view to raising the level of economic activity and levels of living in Africa, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of countries and territories of Africa, both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within the territories of Africa as the Commission deems appropriate, and disseminate the results of such investigation and studies;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform, within the available resources of its secretariat, such advisory services as the countries and territories of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by other bodies of the United Nations or by the specialized agencies;

(e) Assist the Council at its request in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) Assist in the formulation and development of coordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic and technological development in the region;

(g) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of economic and social factors."

Membership and composition

203. In accordance with Council resolution 974 D (XXXVI), section III, which amended the terms of reference of the Commission in regard to its membership, membership of the Commission is open to Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (former Zaire), Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa,[7] the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and to any State in the area that may become a Member of the United Nations.

204. Switzerland participates in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission by virtue of Council resolution 925 (XXXIV) of 6 July 1962.

205. The Commission has at present 53 members, as listed above.

Organs dealing with overall development issues and subsidiary bodies

206. The Council, in paragraph 3 of resolution 671 A (XXV), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities. Council resolution 1997/5 of 18 July 1997 sets out a new structure for the Commission.

207. The Commission has at present the following organs dealing with overall development issues:

(a) Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning (the Commission) and its Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole;

(b) Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning;

(c) Intergovernmental committees of experts of the five subregional development centres: one for North Africa, headquarters Tangiers, Morocco; one for West Africa, headquarters Niamey, Niger; one for Central Africa, headquarters Yaoundé, Cameroon; one for Southern Africa, headquarters Lusaka, Zambia; and one for Eastern Africa, headquarters Kigali, Rwanda;

(d) Conference of African Ministers of Finance.

208. The Commission has at present the following subsidiary bodies:

(a) Committee on Women and Development;

(b) Committee on Development Information;

(c) Committee on Sustainable Development;

(d) Committee on Human Development and Civil Society;

(e) Committee on Industry and Private Sector Development;

(f) Committee on Natural Resources, Science and Technology;

(g) Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration.

Reporting procedure

209. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 671 A (XXV), para. 18), and its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

210. The Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning (the Commission) and its Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole meet on a biennial basis; the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning also meets biennially in alternate years to the Commission, as does the Conference of African Ministers of Finance; all other committees meet on a biennial basis (see Council resolution 1997/5 of 18 July 1997).

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Terms of reference

211. The Commission was provisionally established by the Council in its resolution 37 (IV) of 28 March 1947 as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. The Council, in resolution 414 (XIII), section C.I, of 18, 19 and 20 September 1951, decided to continue the Commission indefinitely. The Council, in resolution 1895 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, decided to change the name to "Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific".

212. The terms of reference of the Commission as set out in Council resolution 37 (IV), which have been amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, most recently in Council decision 1994/288 of 26 July 1994 and Council resolutions 1995/22 of 24 July 1995 and 1996/3 A to C of 18 July 1996, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions on the admission of new members, are as follows:

> "The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council shall, provided the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;
>
> (e) Assist the Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;
>
> (f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors."

Membership and composition

213. The Commission has at present 52 members, of which four are not within its geographical scope, and nine associate members. The members are Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian

Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. Any State in the area that may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission. The associate members are American Samoa; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Cook Islands; French Polynesia; Guam; Hong Kong; China;[3] Macau, China; New Caledonia; and Niue. Switzerland participates in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission by virtue of Council resolution 860 (XXXII) of 21 December 1961.

Subsidiary bodies

214. The Council, in resolution 69 (V) of 31 July 1947, decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

215. The Council, in its resolution 1997/4 of 18 July 1997 on restructuring the Commission conference structure, established the following thematic committees and special bodies:

(a) Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, which meets on a regular basis to advise and exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the Commission's work;

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, which meets biennially, and its Steering Group, which meets annually;

(c) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, which meets annually;

(d) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas, which meets annually;

(e) Committee on Statistics, which meets biennially;

(f) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development, which meets annually;

(g) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, which meets biennially back to back with the Commission sessions in odd-numbered years;

(h) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, which meets biennially back to back with the Commission sessions in even-numbered years.

Reporting procedure

216. The Commission reports directly to the Council, and its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

217. In accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV), the Commission meets annually.

3. Economic Commission for Europe

Terms of reference

218. The Economic Commission for Europe was established and given the following terms of reference by the Council in its resolution 36 (IV) of 28 March 1947, as amended by Council resolution 414 (XIII), section C.I, and subsequent resolutions:

> "The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction of Europe, for raising the level of European economic activity, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the European countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems of and developments within member countries of the Commission and within Europe generally as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic,

technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate."

Membership and composition

219. The Commission has at present the following 55 members: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia. The Holy See participates in the work of the Commission in accordance with Commission decision N (XXXI) of 5 April 1976.

Subsidiary bodies

220. The Council, in paragraph 5 of section A of its resolution 36 (IV), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

221. At its fifty-second session (1997), the Commission carried out in-depth reviews of its structures and functions, which led to the adoption of a "Declaration on the strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe" and a Plan of Action (see Council decision 1997/224 of 18 July 1997). The Declaration identifies the following areas of activities as priority for the work of the Commission: environment; transport; statistics; trade, industry and enterprise development; economic analysis; energy; timber; and human settlements. The principal subsidiary bodies of the Commission, the number of which was reduced from 14 to 7, are listed below:

(a) Committee on Environmental Policy;

(b) Inland Transport Committee;

(c) Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development;

(d) Timber Committee;

(e) Committee on Human Settlements;

(f) Committee on Sustainable Energy;

(g) Conference of European Statisticians.

In addition, the Plan of Action provided for the establishment of a group of Experts on the Programme of Work.

222. The subsidiary structure of each Principal Subsidiary Body can include working parties, which are of a standing nature, and ad hoc groups of experts, which are established for a two-year period with a precise programme of work and sunset clauses.

Reporting procedure

223. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 36 (IV), para. 6), and its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

224. In accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV), the Commission meets annually.

4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Terms of reference

225. The Economic Commission for Latin America was established by the Council in its resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February and 5 March 1948. In its resolution 1984/67 of 27 July 1984, the Council decided to change the name of the Commission to the present one. The following terms of reference were set out in Council resolutions 106 (VI), 234 (IX) of 12 August 1949, 414 (XIII), section C.I, of 18, 19 and 20 September 1951, and 723 C (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, and the Council's decision of 31 July 1969 adopted at its forty-seventh session:

> "The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country

without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for dealing with urgent economic problems and for raising the level of economic activity in Latin America and the Caribbean and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the Latin American and Caribbean countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Latin America and the Caribbean as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Give special attention in its activities to the problems of economic development and assist in the formulation and development of coordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic development in the region;

(e) Assist the Council in discharging its functions with respect to the United Nations technical assistance programme, in particular by assisting in the appraisal of these activities in the Latin American and Caribbean region;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

The Commission shall direct its activities especially towards the study and seeking of solutions of problems arising in Latin America and the Caribbean from world economic maladjustment and towards other problems connected with the world economy, with a view to the cooperation of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the common effort to achieve worldwide recovery and economic stability."

Membership and composition

226. The Commission has at present 41 members and seven associate members. The members are Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

227. The associate members are Anguilla, Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Germany and Switzerland participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission by virtue of Council resolutions 632 (XXII) of 13 December 1956 and 861 (XXXII) of 21 December 1961, respectively.

Subsidiary bodies

228. The Council, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 106 (VI), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

229. At present, the Commission has the following subsidiary bodies:

(a) Central American Development and Cooperation Committee, with subcommittees on trade; statistical coordination; transport; housing, building and planning; electric power and industrial initiatives; and agricultural development;

(b) Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning;

(c) Committee of High-level Government Experts;

(d) Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee;

(e) Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean;

(f) ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas (Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000).

Reporting procedure

230. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 106 (VI), para. 12), and its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council* in even years.

Frequency of meetings

231. The Commission itself meets biennially, in even years, and in odd years the Committee of the Whole holds its session.

5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Terms of reference

232. The Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 as the Economic Commission for Western Asia. In its resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, the Council changed the name of the Commission to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Its terms of reference, in Council resolution 1818 (LV), as subsequently amended, are as follows:

> "The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Western Asia, for raising the level of economic activity in Western Asia and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the countries of that area both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within the territories of Western Asia as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Development Programme;
>
> (e) Assist the Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;
>
> (f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors."

Membership and composition

233. The current members are Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Subsidiary bodies

234. The Commission has the following subsidiary bodies:

(a) Preparatory Committee of the Commission, which meets biennially in odd-numbered years shortly before the biennial session of the Commission (see Council resolutions 1993/1 of 2 February 1993, 1994/26 of 26 July 1994, and 1999/42 of 28 July 1999);

(b) Statistical Committee, which meets biennially (see Council resolution 1993/2 of 2 February 1993);

(c) Committee on Social Development, which meets biennially (see Council resolution 1994/27 of 26 July 1994);

(d) Committee on Energy, which meets biennially (see Council resolution 1995/25 of 24 July 1995);

(e) Committee on Water Resources, which meets biennially (see Council resolutions 1995/26 of 24 July 1995 and 1999/41 of 28 July 1999);

(f) Committee on Transport, which meets biennially (see Council resolution 1997/11 of 18 July 1997);

(g) Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region, which meets biennially (see Council resolutions 1997/12 of 18 July 1997 and 1999/41 of 28 July 1999).

Reporting procedure

235. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 1818 (LV), para. 12). Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

236. In accordance with Council resolution 1994/26 of 26 July 1994, the Commission meets biennially in odd-numbered years.

C. Standing committees

1. Committee for Programme and Coordination

Terms of reference

237. The Committee for Programme and Coordination was first established under the name "Special Committee on Coordination" by the Council in its resolution 920 (XXXIV) of 3 August 1962. It was renamed "Committee for Programme and Coordination" by the Council in its resolution 1171 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, "to reflect better its dual responsibilities". The Committee's original terms of reference were outlined in those resolutions. In its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, the General Assembly decided "that the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination" and approved the consolidated terms of reference as set out in the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976. The terms of reference are as follows:

"*A. Functions*

"1. The Committee shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination.

"2. In particular, the Committee shall:

"(a) Review the programmes of the United Nations as defined in the medium-term plan. In performing this function, the Committee shall:

"(i) Review the medium-term plan in the off-budget years and the programme budget in budget years;

"In reviewing the medium-term plan, the Committee shall examine, in the light of its budgetary implications, the totality of the Secretary-General's work programme, giving particular attention to programme changes arising out of decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and conferences or suggested by the Secretary-General;

"The Committee shall concern itself with medium-term plans formulated for the organizational units involved in each programme of the United Nations and assess the results achieved from current activities, the continuing validity of legislative decisions of more than five years' standing, and the effectiveness of coordination with other units of the Secretariat and members of the United Nations family;

"(ii) Recommend an order of priorities among United Nations programmes as defined in the medium-term plan;

"(iii) Give guidance to the Secretariat on programme design by interpreting legislative intent so as to assist it in translating legislation into programmes. In this connection, the memoranda on the implementation of resolutions, prepared by the Secretariat after each session of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, shall be made available to the Committee, which, in the periods immediately following the sessions of those bodies, shall cooperate with the Secretariat departments concerned in integrating the

new legislation into continuing programmes;

"(iv) Consider and develop evaluation procedures and their use in the improvement of programme design;

"(v) Make recommendations with respect to work programmes proposed by the Secretariat to give effect to the legislative intent of the relevant policy-making organs, taking into account the need to avoid overlapping and duplication;

"(b) Assist the Economic and Social Council in the performance of its coordination functions within the United Nations system.

"3. In discharging those responsibilities, the Committee shall:

"(a) Consider on a sector-by-sector basis the activities and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system in order to enable the Council effectively to perform its functions as coordinator of the system and ensure that the work programmes of the United Nations and its agencies shall be compatible and mutually complementary;

"(b) Recommend guidelines for the agencies of the United Nations system on their programmes and activities, taking into account their respective functions and responsibilities and the need for coherence and coordination throughout the system;

"(c) Undertake from time to time, upon the recommendation of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council, a review and appraisal of the implementation of important legislative decisions, so as to determine the degree of coordinated effort undertaken throughout the United Nations system in certain priority fields designated as such by legislative bodies. The Committee shall perform this work, both independently and in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and shall be required to report on the results of its review to the legislative body that requested that it be undertaken;

"(d) The Committee shall study the reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, appropriate reports of United Nations organs, the annual reports of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant documents.

"*B. Relationships with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Joint Inspection Unit*

"4. The Committee shall establish useful cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

"5. The members of the Joint Inspection Unit shall be free to participate in meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and arrangements shall be made for periodic joint consultations. The Joint Inspection Unit shall also bring to the attention of the Committee any problem which it may consider important within the scope of the Committee's responsibilities.

"6. The reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which shall report thereon to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In its review, the Committee shall take account of any comments which the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions may wish to make on these reports."

238. Pursuant to the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations,[9] the General Assembly, in section II of its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, called for improvement of the representation in the Committee in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 46 of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977. Annex I to resolution 41/213, which is entitled "Budget process", provides that, in off-budget years, "the Committee for Programme and Coordination, acting as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, shall consider the outline and submit, through the Fifth

Committee, to the General Assembly its conclusions and recommendations" and that, in budget years, "the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with their respective mandates and submit their conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, for the final approval of the programme budget".

Membership and composition

239. In accordance with General Assembly decision 42/450 of 17 December 1987, the Committee consists of 34 Member States nominated by the Council and elected by the Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, as follows:

(a) Nine seats for African States;

(b) Seven seats for Asian States;

(c) Seven seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Seven seats for Western European and other States;

(e) Four seats for Eastern European States.

Term of office

240. The term of office of members is three years (Council resolution 2008 (LX), annex, para. 7).

Reporting procedure

241. The Committee reports to the Assembly and the Council, as it is a subsidiary body of both. Its reports are presented as supplements to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

Frequency of meetings

242. The annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) stipulates that "the Committee shall meet for six weeks in (medium-term) plan years (even-numbered years) and for four weeks in budget years" (odd-numbered years). In off-budget years, the session is split into two parts.

Election and term of office of the Bureau

243. The Committee elects its Bureau at its organizational session, which is normally held a month or so before the substantive session. It elects a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur for a term of one year.

244. The post of Chairperson and the post of Rapporteur rotate annually among the regional groups in accordance with a decision taken at the Committee's twenty-fifth session. There is a strict pattern of rotation for the post of Chairperson: (a) African States; (b) Eastern European States; (c) Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Western European and other States; and (e) Asian States. In accordance with that pattern of rotation, the post of Chairperson for the forty-first session of the Committee will be held by Latin American and Caribbean States.

245. It is customary practice for a member of the regional group that occupied the post of senior Vice-Chairperson to become Chairperson the following year. The post of Rapporteur is occupied by a member of the regional group that occupied the post of Chairperson the previous year. At the forty-first session the Rapporteur will therefore be elected from African States.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

246. The Committee takes action by consensus. The report of the Committee consists of two parts: (a) an account of the discussion; and (b) conclusions and recommendations. The part of the report reflecting the discussion contains the views expressed by members of the Committee that did not command agreement by all delegations. In that connection, at its fortieth session, the Committee agreed that draft reports of the Committee prepared by the Secretariat must accurately reflect the opinions expressed during the discussion on specific matters. The tendency of delegations making proposals simply to balance views that they do not like should be discouraged. All draft reports should be provided to the Rapporteur and Coordinators before circulation so as to ensure that the reports accurately reflect the views expressed during the discussion. The conclusions and recommendations section of the report contains the agreements reached on issues raised under specific agenda items.

Utilization of informal consultations

247. It has been the practice of the Committee to hold informal consultations on all substantive items under consideration in order to facilitate the consensus.

Role of the Secretariat

248. The Secretariat plays a proactive role in promoting action by the Committee. This is accomplished by permitting representatives from the substantive offices concerned to attend both the formal and informal meetings of the Committee in order to respond to questions and provide additional information and clarification as necessary. The Secretariat always provides preliminary draft proposals, which are based on the views expressed by delegations during the formal meetings and take into consideration the action required of the Secretary-General, for negotiation by Member States in informal consultations.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

249. The Committee begins its consideration of a specific agenda item by hearing an introduction by the Secretariat. It then holds a discussion on the item.

250. A general debate is held on important items, such as programme planning and the proposed programme budget.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

251. There are no panel discussions in the Committee. At the conclusion of its general discussion or general debate, representatives from the Secretariat answer questions raised by Member States and may also provide additional clarifications and explanations relating to concerns expressed during the general discussion.

Relationship with other intergovernmental bodies

252. At its fortieth session, the Committee reiterated its recommendation that the relevant intergovernmental bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and the Main Committees of the General Assembly, should include in their programme of work an agenda item on programme planning for review of the proposed medium-term plan and its revisions, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/253 and regulation 3.1 of the Regulations And Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and Methods of Evaluation.

2. Commission on Human Settlements

Terms of reference

253. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, the Council, in its resolution 1978/1 of 12 January 1978, decided to transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning (which had been established by the Council in its resolution 903 C (XXXIV) of 2 August 1962) into a Commission on Human Settlements.

254. In section II, paragraph 3, of its resolution 32/162, the General Assembly provides that the Commission will have the following main objectives:

> "(a) To assist countries and regions in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve human settlements problems;
>
> (b) To promote greater international cooperation in order to increase the availability of resources of developing countries and regions;
>
> (c) To promote the integral concept of human settlements and a comprehensive approach to human settlements problems in all countries;
>
> (d) To strengthen cooperation and co-participation in this domain among all countries and regions."

255. The General Assembly, in its resolution 32/162, section II, paragraph 4, also decided that the Commission would have the following main functions and responsibilities:

> "(a) To develop and promote policy objectives, priorities and guidelines regarding existing and planned programmes of work in the field of human settlements, as formulated in the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly;
>
> (b) To follow closely the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of human settlements and to propose, when

appropriate, ways and means by which the overall policy objectives and goals in the field of human settlements within the United Nations system might best be achieved;

(c) To study, in the context of the recommendations for national action of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, new issues, problems and especially solutions in the field of human settlements, particularly those of a regional or international character;

(d) To give overall policy guidance and carry out supervision of the operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (now an integral part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat));

(e) To review and approve periodically the utilization of funds at its disposal for carrying out human settlements activities at the global, regional and subregional levels;

(f) To provide overall direction to the secretariat of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

(g) To review and provide guidance on the programme of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements established by virtue of General Assembly resolution 31/115 of 16 December 1976 (also an integral part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat))."

256. In its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996 the General Assembly reaffirmed that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions, including Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, together with the Commission on Human Settlements, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (A/CONF.164/14).

257. In its resolution 52/192 of 18 December 1997 the Assembly reaffirmed that the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council, should have a central role in monitoring, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and advising the Council thereon. It reaffirmed the existing mandate of the Commission as set out in resolution 32/162, while stressing the normative and catalytic character of the mandate, in particular the responsibility to give overall policy guidance to and supervise the operations of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. The Assembly further decided that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, should assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, inter alia, through the analysis of relevant inputs from Governments, local authorities and their associations, relevant non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The Assembly decided that the Commission should identify issues on which system-wide coordination needed to be improved and modalities for promoting such coordination, in order to assist the Council in its coordination function.

258. In the same resolution, the Assembly took decisions on the structure of the agenda, the work programme, documentation and methods of work of the Commission, and Secretariat support.

Membership, composition and term of office

259. The Commission has 58 members elected by the Council for a four-year term on the following basis (General Assembly resolutions 32/162, sect. II, para. 1 and 40/202 B, para. 3):

(a) Sixteen from African States;

(b) Thirteen from Asian States;

(c) Six from Eastern European States;

(d) Ten from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Thirteen from Western European and other States.

Reporting procedure

260. The Commission reports to the General Assembly through the Council (Assembly resolution 32/162, sect. II, para. 6). Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

Frequency of meetings

261. The Commission meets biennially (Commission resolution 8/1 and General Assembly resolution 40/202 B).

Election and term of office of the Bureau

262. The Bureau is elected at the beginning of each biennial session, normally during April or May, and holds office for two years. It is not customary for the senior Vice-Chairperson to become the next Chairperson. The Chairpersonship does, however, rotate on a strictly geographical basis.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

263. The Commission takes action on proposals by consensus, as a matter of established practice. Action may take the form of Chairperson's summaries, agreed conclusions, resolutions or decisions.

Utilization of informal consultations

264. Informal consultations are held on all texts under consideration.

Role of the Secretariat

265. The Secretariat may assist the Commission by drafting texts for action if specifically requested to do so by Member States.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

266. The Commission does hold a general debate.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

267. The practice has been that all formal discussions are held either in committee or in plenary. The Commission does not normally hold panel discussions or question and answer sessions.

Bodies related to the Commission

268. A Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements assists the Commission, particularly in preparing the Commission sessions in the inter-sessional period. In addition, the Commission, in its resolution 17/18 of 14 May 1999, decided to establish a committee of local authorities, as an advisory board in charge of strengthening the dialogue with cities and other international associations in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

3. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Terms of reference

269. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was established by the Council in its resolution 3 (II) of 21 June 1946. Its original terms of reference were set out in Council resolution 288 B (X) of 27 February 1950, which was superseded by Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 25 May 1968. The current terms of reference of the Committee are set out in Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

270. The Committee carries out the functions assigned to it by the Council in connection with the arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations adopted by the Council in accordance with Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations, as reflected in Council resolution 1996/31. In its proceedings, including when considering applications for granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations, the Committee is guided by the rules of procedure of the Council.

271. The main functions of the Committee include:

(a) Considering applications for general consultative status and special consultative status and for listing on the Roster made by non-governmental organizations and requests for a change in status, and to make recommendations thereon to the Council;

(b) Monitoring, on a regular basis, evolving relationship between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations;

(c) Examining, every fourth year, a brief report submitted to it, through the Secretary-General, by organizations in general consultative status and in special consultative status, of their activities as regards the support to the work of the United Nations and to make recommendations to the Council thereon; and,

(d) Considering matters concerning non-governmental organizations that may be referred to it by the Council or by its commissions.

272. Furthermore, the Committee consults, in connection with sessions of the Council or at such other times as it may decide, with organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status on matters within their competence, other than items on the agenda of the Council, on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultations and reports to the Council on such consultations.

273. The Committee also consults, in connection with any particular session of the Council, with organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status on matters within the competence of the organizations concerning specific items already in the provisional agenda of the Council on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation, and makes recommendations as to which organizations should be heard by the Council or the appropriate committee and regarding which subjects they should be heard. The Committee reports to the Council on such consultations.

274. The Committee also makes recommendations to the Council as to which organizations in general consultative status should make an oral presentation to the Council and on which items they should be heard. In the absence of a subsidiary body of the Council with jurisdiction in a major field of interest to the Council and to organizations in special consultative status, the Committee may recommend that organizations in special consultative status be heard by the Council on the subject of its field of interest.

Membership and composition

275. The Committee has 19 members (Council resolution 1981/50 of 20 July 1981) who are elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation. The membership of the Committee consists of:

(a) Five members from African States;

(b) Four members from Asian States;

(c) Two members from Eastern European States;

(d) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Four members from Western European and other States.

Term of office

276. In accordance with Council decision 70 (ORG-75) of 28 January 1975, the term of office of members is four years.

Reporting procedure

277. The Committee reports directly to the Council (rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Council).

Frequency of meetings

278. The Committee meets annually for three weeks (Council decision 1995/304 of 26 July 1995 and 1997/297 of 23 July 1997). The Committee also holds informal meetings prior to each session for the purpose of clarifying matters arising from applications for consultative status. If necessary, with the approval of the Council, the Committee holds a resumed session of up to two weeks annually.

Election and term of office of the Bureau

279. In accordance with rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council, each year, at the commencement of its first meeting, the Committee elects its Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons. The Chairperson is usually re-elected for another year. In accordance with rule 19, Bureau members are eligible for re-election. One of the Vice-Chairpersons is later designated also to serve as Rapporteur.

280. The Bureau is always elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. A Vice-Chairperson may not be elected Chairperson at the next session. The rotation of Chairpersonship on a geographical basis has not been strictly established.

Modalities for taking action and format for recommendations

281. At the first formal meeting of the session, the Chairperson encourages the Committee to adopt its decisions by consensus. If requested, the Committee decides on proposals by a recorded roll-call vote. Otherwise, it takes action through resolutions and decisions by consensus.

Utilization of informal consultations

282. Informal consultations may take place on an ad hoc basis.

Role of the Secretariat

283. The Secretariat may assist in the drafting of texts for action.

Inclusion of a general debate in the work programme

284. There is no general debate in the Committee.

Utilization of panel discussions and/or question and answer sessions

285. The Committee holds neither panel discussions nor question and answer sessions. In its consideration of applications from non-governmental organizations for consultative status with the Council, the Committee provides an opportunity for delegations, members and non-members of the Committee, to pose questions to the representatives of the organizations presenting applications.

4. Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies

Terms of reference

286. The Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies was established by the Council in its resolution 11 (I) of 16 February 1946 in order to carry out negotiations with intergovernmental agencies with a view to bringing them into relationship with the United Nations in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter.

Membership and composition

287. The Council decides on the membership and composition of the Committee as and when it decides that this Committee should enter into negotiations with one or more intergovernmental agencies.

D. Ad hoc bodies

Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics

Terms of reference

288. In 1995, the Council first requested its President to convene, initially for one year, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics from within existing resources, to make appropriate recommendations for the due fulfilment of the provisions of its resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States, an issue the Council had been seized with since 1991. The Working Group was also asked to make recommendations on ways to ensure that Member States benefited fully from the informatics revolution in meeting the challenges of development, and the specific measures that the agencies, funds, programmes and various bodies of the United Nations system needed to take to help the Member States in this regard (Council resolution 1995/61 of 28 July 1995).

289. The Council renewed the mandate of the Working Group every year since then, requesting it, inter alia, to facilitate the successful implementation of the Secretary-General's initiatives with regard to the use of information technology and for continuing the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives.

290. The functions of the Working Group currently are:

(a) To improve electronic connectivity via the Internet for all Member States in their capitals and at major United Nations locations, inter alia, through the enhanced connectivity of permanent missions to the Internet and United Nations databases;

(b) To improve the access of Member States to a wider range of United Nations information on economic and social, development and political issues and other substantive programming areas, and to have all official documents available via the Internet;

(c) To improve electronic links among Member States, the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

(d) To provide training for the staff of permanent missions to enable them to take advantage of the facilities being developed for Member States, in particular electronic mail and Internet web sites;

(e) To enhance the capacity of Member States to access United Nations data online, using low-cost telecommunications links or providing other modalities, for example, CD-ROM, whereby Member States can have access to specialized databases not available on the Internet;

(f) To make arrangements, as appropriate, to provide permanent missions of developing countries

with the hardware platform to utilize Internet technology;

(g) To use videoconferencing to further communication and interaction between the United Nations, permanent missions and academic institutions;

(h) To intensify contacts with the private sector so as to bring its wealth of experience to bear on the work of the Working Group (Council resolution 2000/28 of 28 July 2000).

Membership

291. The Working Group is open to all States.

Reporting procedure

292. The Chairperson of the Working Group presents an oral report to the Council on the progress achieved in fulfilling its mandate.

Frequency of meetings

293. The working group meets on an as required basis.

E. Expert bodies composed of governmental experts

1. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Terms of reference

294. A Committee of experts on the transport of dangerous goods was first appointed in accordance with the terms of Council resolution 468 G (XV) of 15 April 1953 to study the issue and present a report. Its mandate was subsequently enlarged (see Council resolutions 1488 (XLVIII) of 22 May 1970, 1743 (LIV) of 4 May 1973 and 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975). A Group of Experts on Explosives was also created by Council resolution 724 C (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959 to deal with the listing and harmonizing of the packing of explosives. By resolution 1488 (XLVIII) of 22 May 1970, the Council decided that this group should function as a subsidiary body of the Committee. A Group of Rapporteurs on the Packing of Dangerous Goods was set up by the Committee at its third session, and the creation of this subsidiary body was endorsed by the Council when approving the report of the Committee on its third session (Council resolution 994 (XXXVI) of 16 December 1963). This group was renamed "Group of rapporteurs" in 1975. In 1989, the Group of Rapporteurs and the Group of Experts on Explosives were combined and renamed Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (see Council resolution 1989/104 of 27 July 1989). Since 1963, the Economic Commission for Europe at Geneva serves as the secretariat of the Committee.

295. On the basis of a proposal transmitted by the President of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (E/1999/90) and of the recommendations of the Committee related thereto (E/1999/43, para. 21), the Council reconfigured, as from 2001, the Committee and its Subcommittee into the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, with two Subcommittees, namely the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (Council resolution 1999/65 of 26 October 1999).

296. The terms of reference for the Committee, which are contained in the annex to resolution 1999/65, are the following:

> "The Committee shall deal with strategic issues rather than technical issues. It is not envisaged that it will review, change or revisit technical recommendations of the Subcommittees. Accordingly, its main functions shall be to:
>
> (a) Approve the work programmes for the Subcommittees in the light of available resources;
>
> (b) Coordinate strategic and policy directions in areas of shared interests and overlap;
>
> (c) Give formal endorsement to the recommendations of the Subcommittees and provide the mechanism for channelling them to the Economic and Social Council;
>
> (d) Facilitate and coordinate the smooth running of the Subcommittees."

Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

297. In pursuance of Council resolution 1999/65 (annex), the functions of the Subcommittee are to:

(a) Act as custodian of the globally harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals, managing and giving direction to the harmonization process;

(b) Keep the system up to date, as necessary, considering the need to introduce changes to ensure its continued relevance and practical utility, and determining the need for and timing of the updating of technical criteria, while working with existing bodies, as appropriate;

(c) Promote understanding and use of the system and encourage feedback;

(d) Make the system available for worldwide use and application;

(e) Make guidance available on the application of the system, and on the interpretation and use of technical criteria to support consistency of application;

(f) Prepare work programmes and submit recommendations to the Committee.

Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

298. In pursuance of Council resolution 1999/65 (annex), the Subcommittee replaces the existing Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and its Subcommittee with the same terms of reference. The original terms of reference are contained in Council resolution 468 G (XV) of 15 April 1953. They have been subsequently modified, confirmed or extended in the various resolutions adopted by the Council when considering the work of the Committee every two years, inter alia, as reflected in paras 166-175 of document E/1996/97, Council resolutions 645 G (XXIII) of 26 April 1957, 724 C (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, 871 (XXXIII) of 10 April 1962, 924 (XXXVI) of 16 December 1963, 1488 (XLVIII) of 22 May 1970, 1743 (LIV) and 1744 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, 2050 (LXII) of 5 May 1977, and in addition, Council resolutions 1995/6 of 19 July 1995, 1997/3 of 18 July 1997 (referring to document E/1997/16, para. 21), 1999/62 of 30 July 1999 (referring to document E/1999/43, para. 34).

299. As consolidated, the terms of reference can be summarized as follows:

(a) To recommend and to define groupings or classification of dangerous goods on the basis of the character of risk involved, and to develop related classification tests and criteria;

(b) To list the principal dangerous goods moving in commerce and assigning each to its proper grouping or classification;

(c) To recommend marks or labels for each grouping or classification, which shall identify the risk graphically and without regard to printed text;

(d) To recommend the simplest possible requirements for shipping papers covering dangerous goods;

(e) To address the problem of packing (including construction, testing and use of packagings, intermediate bulk containers, large packagings, gas cylinders and gas receptacles);

(f) To study the questions concerning the construction, testing and use of tanks other than those permanently fixed to, or forming part of, the structure of seagoing vessels or inland waterway craft;

(g) To develop provisions for the transport of solid substances in bulk in freight containers;

(h) To address the problem of the joint transport of dangerous goods, including questions of compatibility and segregation;

(i) To consider giving each of the dangerous goods a numerical designation, which, in addition to the 'dangerous goods' label would indicate the group of compatibility, which could be instrumental in the solution of the problems of the joint transportation of dangerous goods;

(j) To consider supplementing the list of dangerous goods with indications of the properties and the category of danger of such goods, the firefighting means, other safety measures regarding such goods and their packing;

(k) To investigate divergencies existing in the modal practices applicable to the transport of

dangerous goods in respect of their classification, identification, labelling and packaging;

(l) To study, in consultation with other bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the regional commissions, the possibility of an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport;

(m) To take into account the special problems of developing countries;

(n) To elaborate proposals for globally harmonized criteria for the classification of flammable, explosive and reactive materials, taking account of aspects not necessarily covered under transport safety regulations, such as the protection of workers, consumers and the general environment, in cooperation with experts from the International Labour Organization and the International Programme on Chemical Safety;

(o) To cooperate with the International Programme of Chemical Safety for the implementation of Agenda 21;

(p) To reformat the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to keep them up to date and to rationalize their development.

300. In March 1959, the Committee, after having developed recommendations concerning the labelling of radioactive material, recognized the necessity of coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the drafting of recommendations relating to the transport of such material. Consequently, the Council, in its resolution 724 (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, requested the Secretary-General to inform the IAEA of its desire that the IAEA be entrusted with the drafting of recommendations on the transport of radioactive material, on the understanding that these recommendations would be consistent with the principles adopted by the Committee and that they would be established in consultation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned. This has led to continuous cooperation between the Committee, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe. When the reformatting of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods was decided, it was also agreed, after consultation of the IAEA, that the Committee would incorporate the provisions of the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material into the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Council resolution 1997/3 of 18 July 1997).

Composition and membership

301. Under Council resolution 645 G (XXIII), the original Committee was to consist of "not more than nine qualified experts from countries interested in the international transport of dangerous goods". Governments were invited to make available, at the request of the Secretary-General and at their own expense, the members of the Committee of Experts. The Council, in its resolution 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, enlarged the composition of the Committee of Experts by adding five members from developing countries, so as to ensure the adequate participation of such countries. Subsequently, the Secretary-General received several applications from various countries, and in 2000, 23 countries were full members of the Committee, and 8 observer countries participated in accordance with Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

302. In its resolution 1999/65 of 26 October 1999, the Council invited Member States interested in participating in the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System to apply for membership at the latest by the end of 2000 so that the composition of the Subcommittee and of the reconfigured Committee may be decided at the organizational session for 2001 of the Council.

Reporting procedure

303. The Secretary-General submits to the Council, on a biennial basis, a report on the work of the Committee of Experts.

Frequency of meetings

304. In its resolution 1999/65, the Council requested the Secretary-General to plan sessions of the Subcommittees and the reconfigured Committee for 2001-2002, in consultation with the Committee and the Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of

Chemical Classification Systems of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. The total number of meeting days for the period 2001-2002 should not exceed that previously allocated to the Committee of Experts and its Subcommittee, namely 38, with a maximum of three days for the Committee and 10 days for the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System.

305. In the course of recent years, the Committee of Experts met on a biennial basis, while the Subcommittee met twice a year in odd years and once during the first half of the even year. As from 2001-2002, the reconfigured Committee will continue to meet on a biennial basis (next session in December 2002), while the two Subcommittees should meet back to back twice a year every year (next sessions in July and December 2001 and July and December 2002), in accordance with the arrangements described in document E/1999/43, para. 21 (e).

2. United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Terms of reference

306. The Council, in its resolution 715 A (XXVII) of 23 April 1959, requested the Secretary-General to set up a small group of consultants to consider the technical problems of domestic standardization of geographical names, including the preparation of a statement of the general and regional problems involved, to prepare draft recommendations for the procedures, principally linguistic, that might be followed in the standardization of their own names by individual countries and to report to the Council on the desirability of holding an international conference on this subject and of the sponsoring of working groups based on common linguistic systems.

307. The First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held at Geneva from 4 to 22 September 1967. On the basis of the recommendations of the Conference, the Council, in its resolution 1314 (XLVI) of 31 May 1968, approved the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Group of Experts, which was renamed the "United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names" by a Council decision of 4 May 1973.

308. In its decision 1988/116 of 25 May 1988, the Council also approved the statute and rules of procedure of the Group of Experts (E/1988/22, annex II). In its decision 1993/226 of 12 July 1993, the Council approved a new version of the statute (see E/1993/21 and Corr.1, annex).

309. The basic aims of the Group of Experts are:

(a) To emphasize the importance of the standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels and to demonstrate the benefits to be derived from such standardization;

(b) To collect the results of the work of national and international bodies dealing with the standardization of geographical names and to facilitate the dissemination of these results to States Members of the United Nations;

(c) To study and propose principles, policies and methods suitable for resolving problems of national and international standardization;

(d) To play an active role, by facilitating the supply of scientific and technical help, in particular to developing countries, in creating mechanisms for the national and international standardization of geographical names;

(e) To provide a vehicle for liaison and coordination among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations, on work associated with the standardization of geographical names;

(f) To implement the tasks assigned as a result of the resolutions adopted at the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

310. To further the aims stated above, the functions of the Group of Experts are:

(a) To develop procedures and establish mechanisms for standardization in response to national requirements and particular requests;

(b) To undertake preparatory work for the periodic international conferences on the standardization of geographical names, to provide continuity for activities between conferences, and to provide leadership in the implementation of resolutions adopted at the conferences;

(c) To encourage the discussion and study of practical and theoretical steps directed towards standardization;

(d) To coordinate the activities of linguistic/geographical divisions formed to further the work at the national level, to encourage the active participation of countries and divisions, and to promote a degree of uniformity in the work undertaken;

(e) To create any necessary structure to supplement the work of divisions and to deal with issues beyond the scope of a division;

(f) To develop appropriate programmes to assist individual countries and group of countries, to achieve standardization where it is lacking;

(g) To make mapping organizations aware of the importance of using standardized geographical names;

(h) To maintain liaison with international organizations dealing with related subjects and encourage group divisions to participate in the United Nations regional or other cartographic conferences;

(i) To work at the highest possible national, international and United Nations level to interrelate toponymy and cartography;

(j) To make standardization principles and standardized geographical names available as practical information for as wide a user community as possible, through all appropriate media.

Membership and composition

311. The Group is composed of some 150 experts from 52 countries, organized into 22 linguistic/geographical divisions. Within this Group, several working groups have been created to carry out special tasks, such as the setting up of training courses in toponymy, the comparative study of the various systems of transliteration towards a single romanization system for each of the non-Roman writing systems and the production of international gazetteers.

Reporting procedure

312. The Group of Experts normally reports to the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. In addition, the Secretary-General presents a report on each session of the Group of Experts to the subsequent session of the Council.

Frequency of meetings

313. The Group of Experts normally meets biennially. In years when a United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names is held, it meets on dates immediately preceding the opening date of the conference and immediately following the closing date of the conference.

F. Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity

1. Committee for Development Policy

Terms of reference

314. In its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, the Council decided that the Committee for Development Planning should be renamed Committee for Development Policy. The Committee for Development Planning had been created by the Council in its resolution 1035 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964, which requested the Secretary-General "to consider, as the work of United Nations bodies on economic planning and projections progressed, the establishment of a group of experts in planning theory and practice to work as a consultative body within the United Nations". Its original terms of reference are contained in paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1079 (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965, subsequently modified in various resolutions.

315. In accordance with paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1998/46, the Council decides on an appropriate work programme for the Committee and advises it each year about the theme(s) that the Committee should consider at its annual session. The Council takes the decision on the theme(s) at its substantive session (Council resolution 1999/51 of 29 July 1999).

316. The functions of the Committee are as follows:

(a) Continue the triennial review of the status of least developed countries;

(b) Consider issues identified by the Council;

(c) Submit a report to the Council's substantive session, including the outcome of its deliberations on the theme(s) identified by the Council and proposals concerning its work programme for the following year.

The General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the subsidiary bodies of the Council can also propose, through the Council, issues for consideration by the Committee.

317. At its first and second sessions, held in 1999 and 2000, the Committee dealt with the themes of the respective high-level segments of the Council, the new international development strategy for the twenty-first century, and the designation of least developed countries.

Membership and composition

318. In accordance with paragraph 8 of Council resolution 1998/46, the Committee comprises 24 independent experts. They are nominated by the Secretary-General, after consultation with interested Governments, and approved by the Council. The experts are drawn from the fields of economic development, social development and environmental protection, in order to avoid the need to engage the assistance of consultants and so as to reflect an adequate geographical and gender balance.

Term of office

319. The term of office of the experts is three years.

Reporting procedure

320. The Committee reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

321. In accordance with Council resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, the Committee meets annually for a period not exceeding five working days. The session is held in April/May so that the Committee's report may be presented to the Council's substantive session, held in July. Once every three years, the Committee undertakes a review of the list of least developed countries and makes recommendations for changes to the Economic and Social Council.

2. Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance

Terms of reference

322. The Council, in its resolution 1199 (XLII) of 24 May 1967, requested the Secretary-General to elaborate more specific objectives and programmes in the field of public administration, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned. It also decided that the United Nations programme in public administration should from time to time be reviewed by a meeting of experts and that the report of the meeting should be submitted to it for consideration.

323. In subsequent resolutions, the Council has invited the Secretary-General to convene the Meeting of Experts and has given it specific guidelines for consideration. Those guidelines have included, in particular, an examination of changes and trends in public administration and finance at both the national and international levels, a review of issues and priorities in public administration and finance for development in developing countries, and the progress achieved in implementing the relevant provisions of the International Development Strategy. The recommendations of the Meeting of Experts are generally transmitted by the Secretary-General to Member States for their review and appropriate action.

324. Following the resumed fiftieth session of the General Assembly on Public Administration and Development and guided by Assembly resolution 50/225 of 19 April 1996, resulting therefrom, the thirteenth and fourteenth Meetings of Experts were convened in 1997 and 1998, respectively, to assist in the implementation of the decisions taken by the Assembly. At its fourteenth meeting, the Meeting of Experts recommended that the Secretary-General conduct a five-year assessment of the progress made in the implementation of resolution 50/225 and to report his findings to the Assembly, through the Council, in the year 2001. The Assembly endorsed that recommendation in its resolution 53/201.

325. The fifteenth Meeting of Experts was held from 8 to 12 May 2000, at which the Meeting recommended that the Council review the status and reporting arrangements of the Meeting of Experts. Its

recommendations were endorsed by the Council in its decision 2000/231 of 27 July 2000.

Membership and composition

326. Experts attending the meetings have been invited by the Secretary-General in their individual capacities from countries in different stages of development and under different political and administrative systems within Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. In addition to experts, all the United Nations regional commissions, specialized agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and selected global and regional non-governmental organizations in the area of public administration and finance are also invited as observers to the Meeting. At the fifteenth Meeting of Experts, in which some 35 experts and 30 observers took part, the Meeting recommended that the number of experts to participate at the sixteenth meeting in 2002 be maximized, possibly by shortening the Meeting, in order to achieve a wider geographical representation. This recommendation was endorsed by the Council in its decision 2000/231.

Reporting procedure

327. The Meeting reports to the Council (Council resolution 1199 (XLII)), through a report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Meeting.

Frequency of meetings

328. There is no mandated periodicity, although meetings are generally held on a biennial basis.

3. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Terms of reference

329. The Council, in its resolution 1273 (XLIII) of 4 August 1967, requested the Secretary-General to set up a group of experts to explore, in consultation with interested international agencies, ways and means for facilitating the conclusion of tax treaties between developed and developing countries, including the formulation, as appropriate, of possible guidelines and techniques for use in such tax treaties that would be acceptable to both groups of countries and would fully safeguard their respective revenue interests.

330. In its resolution 1765 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Council requested the Ad Hoc Group to continue its work on guidelines for tax treaties between developed and developing countries and to study the implementation of tax agreements, in such areas as income allocation, international tax evasion and avoidance and tax incentives. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for convening the Ad Hoc Group at regular intervals.

331. In its resolution 1980/13 of 28 April 1980, the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in his report (E/1980/11 and Corr.1, para. 52) that, since the Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries had finalized the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries, it should be given a broader title. The Council also indicated that the new title would be "Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters". In the same resolution, the Council entrusted the Ad Hoc Group of Experts with the task of examining the question of international tax evasion and avoidance "with a view to working out, as soon as possible, proposals for international cooperation to combat such evasion and avoidance".

332. In its decision 2000/232 of 27 July 2000, the Council endorsed the recommendations made by the Group of Experts at its ninth meeting, including keeping under a biennial revision process the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries.

Membership and composition

333. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts consists of 25 tax experts (Council decision 1980/155 of 18 July 1980) from 10 developed and 15 developing countries, nominated by Governments but acting in their personal capacity.

Reporting procedure

334. Pursuant to the request of the Council in paragraph 5 of its resolution 1980/13, the Secretary-General submits to the Council a report on the meeting of the Group of Experts.

Frequency of meetings

335. Although it is an ad hoc body, the Group of Experts generally meets biennially.

4. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Terms of reference and working methods

336. The Council, in its decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978, decided to establish a sessional working group on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the purpose of assisting the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant, in conformity with article 16 of the Covenant and in accordance with the programme established by the Council in its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, under which the States parties were to furnish in biennial stages the reports referred to in article 16 of the Covenant.

337. The Council, in its resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979, also entrusted the Working Group with the task of considering the reports of the specialized agencies, submitted to the Council in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant and the programme established under Council resolution 1988 (LX), on the progress made in achieving the observance of the provisions of the Covenant falling within the scope of their activities.

338. By Council resolution 1982/33 of 6 May 1982, the Working Group was renamed the "Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights". By Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, the Sessional Working Group was renamed the "Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights".

339. The procedures and methods of work established by the Council in its resolutions 1988 (LX), 1979/43 and 1982/33 and decisions 1978/10 and 1981/158 remain in force insofar as they are not superseded or modified by Council resolution 1985/17. In that resolution, the Council decided that the experts should serve in their personal capacities. The Council, in its decision 1990/251 of 25 May 1990, approved the Committee's provisional rules of procedure and also approved the holding of a pre-sessional working group of the Committee one to three months prior to the session.

340. Since its first session, in 1987, the Committee has made a concerted effort to devise appropriate working methods which adequately reflect the nature of the tasks with which it has been entrusted. In the course of its sessions it has sought to modify and develop these methods in the light of experience. These methods will continue to evolve. (For the most recent overview of the Committee's working methods, see E/2000/22-E/C.12, 1999/11, Chapter III.)

Membership and composition

341. In accordance with Council resolution 1985/17, the Committee has 18 members who are experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacity, due consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of different forms of social and legal systems; to this end, 15 seats are equally distributed among the regional groups, while the additional 3 seats are allocated in accordance with the increase in the total number of States parties per regional group. The members of the Committee are elected by the Council by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States parties to the International Covenant. Members serve for a term of office of four years and may be re-elected.

Frequency of meetings and reporting procedure

342. The Committee holds two annual sessions (Council resolution 1995/39, para. 1) and reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*. In view of the Committee's workload, the Council approved the holding of two additional three-week extraordinary sessions of the Committee, as well as respective pre-sessional working groups of one week's duration, during 2000 and 2001 (Council decision 1999/287 of 30 July 1999).

5. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development

Terms of reference

343. In its resolution 1998/46 of 28 July 1998, the Council decided to merge the Committee on Natural Resources (Council resolution 1992/62 of 31 July 1992) and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development (Council resolution 1992/62) into a single expert body to be named the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development.

344. The Committee comprises two sub-groups, one to deal with issues relating to energy, and the other to deal with issues relating to water resources. Upon recommendation of both or either of the expert groups of the Committee, the Council may decide modalities for the establishment of ad hoc expert groups, when necessary, to consider issues relating to minerals.

345. In formulating its programme of work, the Committee takes into full account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in order to enable it to contribute to the Commission's work. The Committee presents its programme of work to the Council for consideration and decision.

346. The Committee maintains close links with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, as appropriate.

Membership and composition

347. Pursuant to Council resolution 1998/46, the Committee is composed of two sub-groups of 12 experts nominated by Governments and approved by the Economic and Social Council, with due attention to geographical representation and gender balance. The geographical distribution is as follows:

(a) Six members from African States;

(b) Five members from Asian States;

(c) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Three members from Eastern European States;

(e) Six members from Western European and other States.

Term of office

348. The term of office of members is four years.

Reporting procedure

349. The Committee reports directly to the Council. The report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

350. The Committee meets biennially for two weeks on the understanding that the days available are divided evenly in a flexible manner between the two sub-groups. The Committee held its first session in 1999, and its second session in 2000.

6. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Terms of reference

351. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was established by the Council in its resolution 2000/22 of 28 July 2000, as a subsidiary organ of the Council.

352. The Permanent Forum serves as an advisory body to the Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues within the mandate of the Council relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. In so doing, the Permanent Forum:

(a) Provides expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations, through the Council;

(b) Raises awareness and promotes the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the United Nations system;

(c) Prepares and disseminates information on indigenous issues.

Membership and composition

353. The Permanent Forum consists of 16 members, according to the following pattern:

(a) Eight members to be nominated by Governments and elected by the Council;

(b) Eight members to be appointed by the President of the Council following formal consultations with the Bureau and regional groups through their coordinators, on the basis of broad consultations with indigenous organizations, taking into account the diversity and geographical distribution of the indigenous people of the world as well as the principles of transparency, representativity and equal opportunity for all indigenous people, including internal processes, when appropriate, and local indigenous consultation processes.

All members serve in their personal capacity as independent experts on indigenous issues.

354. In addition, States, United Nations bodies and organs, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council may participate as observers. Organizations of indigenous people may equally participate as observers in accordance with the procedures which have been applied in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the Commission on Human Rights.

Term of office

355. Members serve for a period of three years with the possibility of re-election or reappointment for one further period.

Reporting procedures

356. The Permanent Forum reports annually to the Council on its activities, including any recommendations for approval.

Frequency of meetings, rules, decision-making, and review process

357. In pursuance of Council resolution 2000/22, the Permanent Forum holds an annual session of 10 working days. It applies the rules of procedure established for subsidiary organs of the Council as applicable, unless otherwise decided by the Council. The principle of consensus shall govern the work of the Permanent Forum.

358. The Council will, once the Permanent Forum has been established and has held its first annual session, review, without prejudging any outcome, all existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes within the United Nations concerning indigenous issues, including the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, with a view to rationalizing activities, avoiding duplication and overlap and promoting effectiveness.

359. Five years after its establishment, the Council will carry out an evaluation of the functioning of the Permanent Forum, including the method for selection of its members, in the light of the experience gained.

G. Related bodies

1. International Narcotics Control Board

Terms of reference

360. The International Narcotics Control Board was established pursuant to article 9 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[10] as amended by the 1972 Protocol.[11]

361. The Board, in cooperation with Governments, and subject to the terms of the Convention, endeavours to limit the cultivation, production, manufacture and use of drugs to an adequate amount required for medical and scientific purposes, to ensure their availability for such purposes and to prevent the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of, and illicit trafficking in and use of, drugs (Single Convention, article 9, para. 4).

Membership and composition

362. In accordance with article 9, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention, the Board consists of 13 members to be elected by the Council as follows:

(a) Three members with medical, pharmacological or pharmaceutical experience from a list of at least five persons nominated by the World Health Organization;

(b) Ten members from a list of persons nominated by the Members of the United Nations and by Parties to the Convention that are not Members of the United Nations.

363. The Council, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation, is to give consideration to the importance of including on the Board, in equitable proportion, persons possessing a knowledge of the drug situation in the producing, manufacturing and consuming countries, and connected with such countries (ibid., para. 3). In its resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999, the Council invited Member States and the World Health Organization, when selecting candidates for the Board, to ensure the necessary multidisciplinary expertise and the required independence and impartiality for the effective discharge of the responsibilities of the Board.

Term of office

364. The term of office of members is five years and members may be re-elected (ibid., article 10, para. 1). The term of office of each member of the Board ends on the eve of the first meeting of the Board that his or her successor is entitled to attend (ibid., para. 2).

Reporting procedure

365. The report of the Board is submitted annually to the Council.

Frequency of meetings

366. The Board meets as often as, in its opinion, may be necessary for the proper discharge of its functions (ibid., article 11, para. 2). It usually holds two or three sessions in each calendar year.

2. Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Terms of reference

367. The Institute was established by the Council in its resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976 in conformity with General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which the Assembly decided in principle to establish the Institute, based on a recommendation made by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975. The Institute is an autonomous institution, funded from voluntary contributions, within the framework of the United Nations that was established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to serve as a vehicle on the international level for the purpose of undertaking research and establishing training programmes to contribute to the integration and mobilization of women in development, to raise awareness of women's issues worldwide and better to assist women to meet new challenges and directions (A/39/511, annex, article I).

368. According to its statute (A/39/511, annex), which was approved by the Council in its decision 1984/124 of 24 May 1984 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/249 of 9 April 1985, the objectives of the Institute are to stimulate and assist, through research, training and the collection and dissemination of information, the advancement of women and their integration in the developmental process both as participants and as beneficiaries (ibid., article II). Article VI of the statute was amended in 2000 by the Council in its resolution 2000/24, as follows: "The activities of the Institute shall be funded by voluntary contributions from States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations, including the United Nations Foundation, private sources and other sources in accordance with article VII of the statute."

369. Its principal functions are:

(a) To conduct research and studies that would enhance the effective integration and mobilization of women in development;

(b) To establish training programmes, including a fellowship programme and advisory services;

(c) To establish and maintain a system of information, documentation and communication so as to enable the Institute to respond to the need for disseminating information worldwide on women's issues.

370. In its resolution 54/150 of 17 December 1999, the Assembly endorsed a new structure and working method for INSTRAW based on the establishment of an electronic Gender Awareness Information and Networking System.

Membership, composition and responsibilities of the Board

371. In accordance with article III, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Institute, the Board is composed of 11 members nominated by States and appointed by the Council with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. A representative of the Secretary-General, the Director of the Institute, a representative of each of the regional commissions, and a representative of the host country serve as ex officio members of the Board.

372. The responsibilities of the Board are:

(a) To formulate principles, policies and guidelines for the activities of the Institute;

(b) To consider and approve the work programme and budget proposals of the Institute on the basis of recommendations submitted to it by the Director of the Institute;

(c) To make recommendations necessary or desirable for the operation of the Institute;

(d) To report periodically to the Council and, where appropriate, to the General Assembly.

Term of office

373. The term of office of members of the Board is three years and they are eligible for reappointment for one further term (ibid., article III, para. 2).

Frequency of meetings and reporting procedure

374. The Board meets and reports to the Council annually.

3. Committee for the United Nations Population Award

Terms of reference

375. The United Nations Population Award was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981 as amended by the Assembly in its decision 41/445 of 5 December 1986. The Regulations Governing the Award are contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 36/201, which was also amended in Assembly decision 41/445. The Committee selects the recipients of the award.

Membership and composition

376. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award is composed of 10 representatives of States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Council, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and the need to include those Member States that have made contributions for the Award. The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund serve as ex officio members. In addition, five eminent individuals who have made significant contributions to population-related activities serve as honorary members in an advisory capacity; they are selected by the members of the Committee for a renewable term of three years.

Term of office

377. The term of office of members of the Committee is three years (General Assembly resolution 36/210, annex, article 4, para. 1 (a)).

Reporting procedure

378. The Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, on behalf of the Committee, reports to the General Assembly annually.

Frequency of meetings

379. The Committee meets once a year (ibid., article 5, para. 3).

4. Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Terms of reference

380. The Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) was established by the Council in its resolution 1994/24 of 26 July 1994. Through its resolution 1999/36 of 26 July 1999, the Council changed the name to Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. It comprises the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank and the United Nations Drug Control Programme. The latter became the seventh co-sponsor organization in March 1999. The Programme outline is contained in the annex to Council resolution 1994/24.

381. Following its consideration of the report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of the Programme (see E/1995/71), the Council, in its resolution 1995/2 of 3 July 1995, endorsed the arrangements for the Programme Coordination Board as set out in section VI of that report. The Board serves as the governance structure for the Programme. Its functions are as follows:

(a) To establish broad policies and priorities for the Programme, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992;

(b) To make recommendations to the co-sponsoring organizations regarding their activities in support of the Programme, including those of mainstreaming;

(c) To review and decide upon the planning and execution of the Programme;

(d) To review and approve the plan of action and budget for each financial period, longer-term plans of action and their financial implications, and the annual financial statements;

(e) To review periodic reports that evaluate the progress of the Programme towards the achievement of its goals.

Membership and composition

382. The Board is composed of 22 Member States, with the participation of the seven co-sponsors and five eligible non-governmental organizations. Member States are elected by the Council (Council decision 1995/223 of 5 May 1995) according to the following regional distribution:

(a) Five seats for African States;

(b) Five seats for Asian States;

(c) Two seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Three seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Seven seats for Western European and other States.

The arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Board are outlined in the annex to Council resolution 1995/2.

Term of office

383. The term of office is three years.

Reporting procedures

384. The Board reports to the Council as requested.

III. Subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields

A. Standing bodies

1. Committee for Programme and Coordination

385. The Committee for Programme and Coordination is a subsidiary body of both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. (For details on the Committee, see paras. 237-252 above.)

2. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

Terms of reference

386. The General Assembly, in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, having recognized the role of technical cooperation among developing countries for initiating, designing, organizing and promoting cooperation so that developing countries can create, acquire, adapt, transfer and pool knowledge and experience for their mutual benefit and for achieving national and collective self-reliance and having declared that the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held at Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978, was a major step in the strengthening of cooperation among developing countries and that the implementation of its recommendations constituted a major contribution in the evolution of international cooperation for development and in the establishment of the new international economic order, endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries[12] as an important instrument of the international community to intensify and strengthen cooperation among developing countries, and decided to entrust the overall intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries within the United Nations system to a high-level meeting of representatives of all States participating in UNDP to be convened by the Administrator of the Programme in accordance with the provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

387. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly decided that the High-level Meeting should be called the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, with the same functions and frame of reference as those outlined in recommendation 37 and other relevant recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

Reporting procedure

388. The Committee reports to the General Assembly through the UNDP Executive Board and the Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

Frequency of meetings

389. The Committee meets once every two years in odd-numbered years.

3. United Nations Children's Fund

Terms of reference

390. The United Nations Children's Fund was first created by the General Assembly in its resolution 57 (I) of 11 December 1946 under the name "International Children's Emergency Fund" as a temporary fund "to be utilized for the benefit of children and adolescents of countries which were the victims of aggression". In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the "Fund shall be administered by an Executive Director under policies, including the determination of programmes and allocation of funds, established by an Executive Board in accordance with such principles as might be laid down by the Economic and Social Council and its Social Commission".

391. The terms of reference of the Fund were set out as follows in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 57 (I):

> "(a) For the benefit of children and adolescents of countries which were victims of aggression and in order to assist in their rehabilitation;
>
> (b) For the benefit of children and adolescents of countries at present receiving assistance from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration;
>
> (c) For child health purposes generally, giving high priority to the children of countries victims of aggression."

392. The General Assembly, in its resolution 417 (V) of 1 December 1950, "recognizing the necessity for continued action to relieve the sufferings of children, particularly in underdeveloped countries and countries that had been subjected to the devastation of war and to other calamities", decided "that during the period of the Fund's existence ... the Board, in accordance with such principles as may be laid down by the Economic and Social Council and its Social Commission, shall, with due regard to the urgency of the needs and available resources, formulate the policies, determine the programmes and allocate the resources of the Fund for the purpose of meeting, through the provision of supplies, training and advice, emergency and long-range needs of children and their continuing needs particularly in underdeveloped countries, with a view to strengthening, wherever this may be appropriate, the permanent child health and child welfare programmes of the countries receiving assistance; that the Executive Board shall take all necessary steps to ensure close collaboration between the Administration of the Fund and the specialized agencies, pursuant to the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies; ... that the General Assembly will again consider the future of the Fund at the expiration of three years, with the object of continuing the Fund on a permanent basis".

393. The Fund was placed on a permanent footing by the General Assembly in its resolution 802 (VIII) of 6 October 1953, as the Assembly reaffirmed the pertinent provisions of its resolutions 57 (I) and 417 (V), with the exception of any reference to time limits contained in those resolutions. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided to change the name of the organization to the "United Nations Children's Fund, retaining the symbol UNICEF".

Membership and composition of the Executive Board of UNICEF

394. According to paragraph 22 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, the functions of the Executive Board are:

(a) To implement the policies formulated by the Assembly and the coordination and guidance received from the Council;

(b) To receive information from and give guidance to the head of UNICEF on its work;

(c) To ensure that the activities and operational strategies of UNICEF are consistent with the overall policy guidance set forth by the Assembly and the Council, in accordance with their respective responsibility as set out in the Charter;

(d) To monitor the performance of UNICEF;

(e) To approve programmes, including country programmes, as appropriate;

(f) To decide on administrative and financial plans and budgets;

(g) To recommend new initiatives to the Council and, through the Council, to the Assembly, as necessary;

(h) To encourage and examine new programme initiatives;

(i) To submit annual reports to the Council at its substantive session, which could include recommendations, where appropriate, for improvement of field-level coordination.

395. In accordance with the provisions of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162, the Executive Board consists of 36 members, to be elected by the Council from States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Eight seats for African States;

(b) Seven seats for Asian States;

(c) Four seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Five seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Twelve seats for Western European and other States.

Term of office

396. The term of office of members is three years.

Reporting procedure

397. The Executive Board reports to the Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

398. The Executive Board holds an annual session as well as regular sessions between the annual sessions, as required. Two regular sessions were held in 2000.

4. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Terms of reference

399. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established as an organ of the General Assembly and given its terms of reference by the Assembly in its resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964. The principal functions of the Conference were given in section II, paragraph 3, of the resolution and are the following:

> "(a) To promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development, particularly trade between countries at different stages of development, between developing countries and between countries with different systems of economic and social organization, taking into account the functions performed by existing international organizations;
>
> (b) To formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic development;
>
> (c) To make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect and to take such other steps within its competence as may be relevant to this end, having regard to differences in economic systems and stages of development;
>
> (d) Generally, to review and facilitate the coordination of activities of other institutions within the United Nations system in the field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this regard to cooperate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for coordination under the Charter of the United Nations;
>
> (e) To initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and without duplication of their activities;
>
> (f) To be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Government and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter;
>
> (g) To deal with any other matters within the scope of its competence."

400. The General Assembly, in its resolution 31/159 of 21 December 1976, affirmed, in the context of section I

of Conference resolution 90 (IV), that "the functions mentioned therein should be strengthened in order to increase the effectiveness of the Conference as an organ of the General Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related issues of international economic cooperation which would play a major role in the improvement of the conditions of international trade, the acceleration of the growth of the world economy, including in particular the economic development of developing countries, and in the realization of the objectives of Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI), 3281 (XXIX) and 3362 (S-VII)".

401. In paragraph 18 of the annex to its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, on the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, the General Assembly decided that, in the light of its resolution 31/159, appropriate measures should be taken to enable UNCTAD, within available resources, effectively to play the major role envisaged in Conference resolution 90 (IV) as an organ of the Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related areas of international economic cooperation, bearing in mind the need to maintain its close and cooperative relationship with the Assembly and to cooperate with the Council in carrying out the Council's responsibilities under the Charter.

402. In its resolution 34/196 of 19 December 1979, the General Assembly endorsed Conference resolution 114 (V) of 3 June 1979 on institutional issues and called for the necessary action for its full implementation. In particular in section I of resolution 114 (V), the Conference had invited the Assembly to take the necessary action for strengthening UNCTAD in accordance with the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 1995 (XIX) and 32/197 and Conference resolution 90 (IV), taking into account the mandates of other international organizations and bodies.

403. In its resolution 55/182 of 12 December 2000, the General Assembly reaffirmed the outcome of the tenth session of the Conference, held in Bangkok.

Trade and Development Board

404. The General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 1995 (XIX), established the Trade and Development Board as part of the United Nations machinery in the economic field and outlined its functions in paragraphs 14 to 23 as follows:

(a) When the Conference is not in session, to carry out the functions that fall within the competence of the Conference;

(b) To keep under review and take appropriate action within its competence for the implementation of the recommendations, declarations, resolutions and other decisions of the Conference and to ensure the continuity of its work;

(c) To make or initiate studies and reports in the field of trade and related problems of development;

(d) To request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare such reports, studies or other documents as it may deem appropriate;

(e) As required, to make arrangements to obtain reports from and establish links with intergovernmental bodies whose activities are relevant to its functions, and in order to avoid duplication to avail itself, whenever possible, of the relevant reports made to the Council and other United Nations bodies;

(f) To establish close and continuous links with the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and to establish such links with other relevant regional intergovernmental bodies;

(g) In its relations with organs and agencies within the United Nations system, to act in conformity with the responsibilities of the Council under the Charter, particularly those of coordination, and with the relationship agreements with the agencies concerned;

(h) To serve as a preparatory committee for future sessions of the Conference and, to that end, to initiate the preparation of documents, including a provisional agenda, for consideration by the Conference, as well as make recommendations as to the appropriate date and place for its convening;

(i) To establish such subsidiary organs as may be necessary to the effective discharge of its functions.

Subsidiary bodies

405. Pursuant to decisions taken at the ninth session of UNCTAD (Midrand, South Africa, 1996), the Board has the following subsidiary bodies: (a) Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and Programme Budget (see UNCTAD resolution 114 (V) of 3 June 1979 and Trade and Development Board decision 156 (XVII) of 1 September 1977); (b) Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities; (c) Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues; and (d) Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development.

Membership and composition

406. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/2 of 29 September 1976, the membership of the Board is open to all members of the Conference. The members of the Conference, as indicated in Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), are those States that are Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Reporting procedure

407. Paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) provides that "the Board shall report to the Conference and it shall also report annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. The Council may transmit to the Assembly such comments on the reports as it may deem necessary". The reports of the Board are presented as supplements to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

Frequency of meetings

408. In accordance with a decision taken at the ninth session of the Conference, the Board meets once a year in a regular session for two weeks in October, and in addition it holds a number of executive sessions, each one lasting one day. It may also meet in special session between the sessions of the Conference which are normally convened at intervals of not more than four years.

5. United Nations Development Fund for Women

Terms of reference

409. The United Nations Development Fund for Women has its origins in the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year (Council resolution 1850 (LVI) of 16 May 1974). At its thirtieth session, at its 2441st plenary meeting, on 15 December 1975, the General Assembly decided that the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year should be extended to cover the period of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 31/133 of 16 December 1976, the Assembly adopted "the following criteria and arrangements for the management of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women:

"(a) Criteria:

The resources of the Fund should be utilized to supplement activities in the following areas designed to implement the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, priority being given to the related programmes and projects of the least developed, landlocked and island countries among developing countries:

(i) Technical cooperation activities;

(ii) Development and/or strengthening of regional and international programmes;

(iii) Development and implementation of joint interorganizational programmes;

(iv) Research, data collection and analysis, relevant to (i), (ii) and (iii) above;

(v) Communication support and public information activities designed to promote the goals of the Decade and, in particular, the activities undertaken under (i), (ii) and (iii) above;

(vi) In the selection of projects and programmes, special consideration should be given to those which benefit rural women, poor women in urban areas and other marginal groups of women, especially the disadvantaged;

(b) Arrangements:

> The General Assembly endorses the arrangements for the future management of the Fund contained in the annex to the present resolution."

410. In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the General Assembly requested "the President of the Assembly to select ... five Member States each of which should appoint a representative to serve on the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women to advise the Secretary-General on the application to the use of the Fund of the criteria set forth in paragraph 1 (of resolution 31/133)".

411. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, the General Assembly decided "that the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women shall be continued through establishment of a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, which will play an innovative and catalytic role in relation to the United Nations overall system of development cooperation".

412. In the annex to that resolution, entitled "Arrangements for the management of the United Nations Development Fund for Women", it is indicated that the Fund was established as a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with UNDP. The Administrator of UNDP was to be accountable for all aspects of the management and operations of the Fund and a Consultative Committee would advise the Administrator on all policy matters relating to the activities of the Fund. All operations of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women were transferred to the Fund. It was decided that the resources of the Fund should be used mainly within two priority areas: first, to serve as a catalyst, with the goal of ensuring the appropriate involvement of women in mainstream development activities, as often as possible at the pre-investment stage; and second, to support innovative and experimental activities benefiting women in line with national and regional priorities. The Administrator of UNDP was to delegate the management of the Fund and its administration, including responsibility for the mobilization of resources, to the Director, who was to have authority to conduct all matters related to its mandate and who was to be accountable directly to the Administrator.

413. In its resolution 40/104 of 13 December 1985, the General Assembly expressed "its satisfaction that the establishment of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, was effected on the agreed target date of 1 July 1985, in accordance with the arrangements set out in General Assembly resolution 39/125" and approved the name United Nations Development Fund for Women.

414. In its resolution 45/128 of 14 December 1990, the General Assembly stressed "the importance of the work for the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women in policy and programme matters relating to the activities of the Fund".

Membership and composition of the Consultative Committee on the Fund and term of office of its members

415. In the annex to General Assembly resolution 39/125, the President of the Assembly is required to "designate with due regard for the financing of the Fund from voluntary contributions and to equitable geographical distribution, five Member States to serve on the Consultative Committee for a period of three years. Each State member of the Consultative Committee shall designate a person with relevant expertise and experience in development cooperation activities, including those benefiting women, to serve on the Committee". The five regional groups are represented on the Consultative Committee.

Reporting procedure

416. In its resolution 31/133, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to it on the management of the Fund. In paragraph 12 of the annex to the resolution, it is further stated that "an annual report showing funds available, pledges and payments received and the expenditures made from the Fund shall be prepared by the Controller and submitted to the General Assembly and, as appropriate, to the Commission on the Status of Women".

417. As outlined in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 39/125, "the Director (of the Fund) shall prepare substantive and financial progress reports on the use of the Fund for the Administrator to submit to the Consultative Committee. Taking into account the advice of the

Consultative Committee, the Administrator shall submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme an annual report on the operations, management and budget of the Fund. He shall submit a similar report to the General Assembly, to be referred to the Second Committee for consideration of its technical cooperation aspects and also to the Third Committee". The reports of the Administrator are issued as documents of the Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

418. The Consultative Committee meets twice a year.

6. United Nations Development Programme

Terms of reference

419. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965. In the resolution, the Assembly decided "to combine the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund in a programme to be known as the United Nations Development Programme, it being understood that the special characteristics and operations of the two programmes, as well as two separate funds, will be maintained and that, as hitherto, contributions may be pledged to the two programmes separately". The Special Fund had been established by the Assembly in its resolution 1240 (XIII) of 14 October 1958 to provide, inter alia, "systematic and sustained assistance in fields essential to the integrated technical, economic and social development of the less developed countries". A Governing Council of the Special Fund was also established by the same resolution to "provide general policy guidance on the administration and operations of the Special Fund".

420. The General Assembly, in its resolution 2029 (XX), also established a Governing Council of UNDP "to perform the functions previously exercised by the Governing Council of the Special Fund and the Technical Assistance Committee, including the consideration and approval of projects and programmes and the allocation of funds; in addition, it shall provide general policy guidance and direction for the United Nations Development Programme as a whole, as well as for the United Nations regular programmes of technical assistance".

421. The basic principles and purposes of UNDP are outlined in detail in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970. The responsibility of the Governing Council is set forth in paragraph 35 of the annex as follows: "The Governing Council has overall responsibility for ensuring that the resources of the Programme are employed with maximum efficiency and effectiveness in assisting the development of the developing countries."

422. As set out in paragraph (e) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, the general guidelines for the orientation of UNDP were to ensure, inter alia, that:

> "(i) The basic purpose of technical cooperation should be the promotion of self-reliance in developing countries ...;
>
> (ii) The selection of priority areas in which to seek the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme should remain the exclusive responsibility of the Governments of the recipient countries; in that context, the Programme should respond favourably to requests for meeting the most urgent and critical needs of each developing country, taking into account the importance of reaching the poorest and most vulnerable sections of their societies and enhancing the quality of their life;
>
> (iii) Technical cooperation should be seen in terms of output or the results to be achieved, rather than in terms of input;
>
> (iv) ... The United Nations should provide, where appropriate, equipment and material resources, adopt a more liberal policy towards local cost financing and be flexible in requirements for counterpart personnel;
>
> ...
>
> (vii) ... Governments and institutions in recipient countries should be increasingly entrusted with the responsibility for executing projects assisted by the United Nations Development Programme;
>
> (viii) Technical cooperation should be provided at any of the levels and stages of the development process ...;

(ix) ... The United Nations Development Programme should more often enter into partnership with capital assistance sources ...;

(x) In the context of new dimensions of technical cooperation, special attention should be paid to the requirements of the least developed among the developing countries."

423. In its decision 94/14, the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA decided that "the overall mission of UNDP should be to assist programme countries in their endeavour to realize sustainable human development, in line with their national development programmes and priorities".[13] In decision 95/22, the Executive Board urged UNDP, given poverty eradication as the overriding priority in the UNDP programmes, to concentrate on areas where it had demonstrable comparative advantage, in particular capacity-building in the most needed regions and countries, in particular the least developed countries, especially in Africa.[14]

424. Pursuant to those decisions, the mandate of UNDP is to help countries develop national capacity to achieve sustainable human development, giving overriding priority to eradicating poverty and building equity. Other vital objectives include the advancement of women, the regeneration of the environment and the creation of sustainable livelihoods. In its decision 96/29, the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA endorsed the UNDP mission statement.

Membership and composition of the Executive Board of UNDP

425. In paragraph 21 of annex I to its resolution 48/162, the General Assembly decided that the current governing body of UNDP/UNFPA should be transformed into an Executive Board, subject to the authority of the Council. According to paragraph 22 of the same annex, the functions of the Executive Board are the following:

(a) To implement the policies formulated by the Assembly and the coordination and guidance received from the Council;

(b) To receive information from and give guidance to the head of UNDP/UNFPA on its work;

(c) To ensure that the activities and operational strategies of UNDP/UNFPA are consistent with the overall policy guidance set forth by the Assembly and the Council, in accordance with their respective responsibility as set out in the Charter;

(d) To monitor the performance of UNDP/UNFPA;

(e) To approve programmes, including country programmes, as appropriate;

(f) To decide on administrative and financial plans and budgets;

(g) To recommend new initiatives to the Council and, through the Council, to the Assembly as necessary;

(h) To encourage and examine new programme initiatives;

(i) To submit annual reports to the Council at its substantive session, which could include recommendations, where appropriate, for improvement of field-level coordination.

426. In accordance with the provisions of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162, the Executive Board consists of 36 members, to be elected by the Council from among States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Eight seats for African States;

(b) Seven seats for Asian States;

(c) Five seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Twelve seats for Western European and other States;

(e) Four seats for Eastern European States.

Term of office

427. The term of office of members is three years (General Assembly resolution 2813 (XXVI), para. 1 (d)).

Reporting procedure

428. The Executive Board reports to the Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

429. The Executive Board holds an annual session as well as regular sessions between the annual sessions, as required.

7. United Nations Environment Programme

Terms of reference

430. The General Assembly, in its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, "aware of the urgent need for a permanent institutional arrangement within the United Nations system for the protection and improvement of the environment," decided "to establish a Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (with) the following main functions and responsibilities:

> "(a) To promote international cooperation in the field of the environment and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;
>
> (b) To provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;
>
> (c) To receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, referred to in section II, paragraph 2 (of the resolution), on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;
>
> (d) To keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;
>
> (e) To promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;
>
> (f) To maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that may be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, and to ensure that such programmes and projects shall be compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries;
>
> (g) To review and approve annually the programme of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund" (established in section III of the resolution).

431. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that "a small secretariat shall be established in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for environmental action and coordination within the United Nations system in such a way as to ensure a high degree of effective management".

432. The mandate of UNEP was reinforced in 1992 by the General Assembly in its endorsement of Agenda 21, chapter 38, paragraphs 21 to 23 (resolution 47/190).

433. The Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP, adopted by the UNEP Governing Council in February 1997 and endorsed by the General Assembly in June 1997 (resolution S-19/2, para. 123), further redefined the role of UNEP as follows: "The role of the United Nations Environment Programme is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment".

Membership and composition of the Governing Council of UNEP

434. In accordance with section I, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), the Governing Council is composed of 58 members elected by the Assembly on the following basis:

(a) Sixteen seats for African States;

(b) Thirteen seats for Asian States;

(c) Six seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Ten seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States.

Term of office

435. By its decision 43/406 of 24 October 1988, the General Assembly decided to change, beginning on 1 January 1990, the term of office of the members of the Governing Council from three to four years.

Reporting procedure

436. In section I, paragraph 3, of its resolution 2997 (XXVII), the General Assembly decided "that the Governing Council shall report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which will transmit to the Assembly such comments on the report as it may deem necessary, particularly with regard to questions of coordination and to the relationship of environmental policies and programmes within the United Nations system to overall economic and social policies and priorities". The reports of the Governing Council are presented as supplements to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

Frequency of meetings

437. The Governing Council met annually until 1987. In its resolution 42/185 of 11 December 1987, the General Assembly decided that the regular sessions of the Council shall be held in odd-numbered years, beginning in 1989.

438. In its resolution 53/142 of 10 August 1999, the Assembly welcomed the proposal to institute an annual, ministerial-level, global environmental forum, with the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme constituting the forum in the years that it meets in regular sessions and, in alternate years, with the forum taking the form of a special session of the Governing Council. As a result, the first Ministerial Environment Forum/sixth special session of the Governing Council was held in May 2000.

8. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Terms of reference

439. In its resolution 319 (IV) of 3 December 1949, the General Assembly decided "to establish, as of 1 January 1951, a High Commissioner's Office for Refugees" and "to renew, no later than at its eighth regular session, the arrangements for the High Commissioner's Office for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1953". The Assembly decided subsequently to continue the Office of the High Commissioner for further periods of five years, as of 1 January 1954, by its resolutions 727 (VIII) of 23 October 1953, 1165 (XII) of 26 November 1957, 1783 (XVII) of 7 December 1962, 2294 (XXII) of 11 December 1967, 2957 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, 32/68 of 8 December 1977, 37/196 of 18 December 1982, 42/108 of 7 December 1987, 47/104 of 16 December 1992, and 52/104 of 9 February 1998, the last resolution covering the period 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2003.

440. The annex to General Assembly resolution 319 (IV) provided that "the High Commissioner should be elected by the General Assembly, on the nomination of the Secretary-General, for a term of three years from 1 January 1951". The duration of subsequent mandates has varied never to exceed five years. The current High Commissioner was elected by the Assembly in its decision 55/310 of 26 October 2000 for a period of five years ending on 31 December 2005.

441. The terms of reference of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were first set out in General Assembly resolution 319 (IV) and further elaborated in Assembly resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950, the annex to which contains the "statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". According to paragraph 1 of the statute, "the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, acting under the authority of the General Assembly, shall assume the function of providing international protection, under the auspices of the United Nations, to refugees who fall within the scope of the present statute and of seeking permanent solutions for the problem of refugees by assisting Governments and, subject to the approval of the Governments concerned, private organizations to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of such refugees, or their assimilation within new national communities".

442. Under paragraph 8 of the statute, "the High Commissioner shall provide for the protection of refugees falling under the competence of his Office by:

> "(a) Promoting the conclusion and ratification of international conventions for the protection of refugees, supervising their application and proposing amendments thereto;
>
> (b) Promoting through special agreements with Governments the execution of any measures

calculated to improve the situation of refugees and to reduce the number requiring protection;

(c) Assisting governmental and private efforts to promote voluntary repatriation or assimilation within new national communities;

(d) Promoting the admission of refugees, not excluding those in the most destitute categories, to the territories of States;

(e) Endeavouring to obtain permission for refugees to transfer their assets and especially those necessary for their resettlement;

(f) Obtaining from Governments information concerning the number and conditions of refugees in their territories and the laws and regulations concerning them;

(g) Keeping in close touch with the Governments and intergovernmental organizations concerned;

(h) Establishing contact in such manner as he may think best with private organizations dealing with refugee questions;

(i) Facilitating the coordination of the efforts of private organizations concerned with the welfare of refugees."

Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner

443. At the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, the Council, in its resolution 672 (XXV) of 30 April 1958, established an Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to take the place of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund. The terms of reference of the Executive Committee were set forth in Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) as follows:

"(a) To give directives to the High Commissioner for the liquidation of the United Nations Refugee Fund;

(b) To advise the High Commissioner, at his request, in the exercise of his functions under the statute of his Office;

(c) To advise the High Commissioner as to whether it is appropriate for international assistance to be provided through his Office in order to help solve specific refugee problems remaining unsolved after 31 December 1958 or arising after that date;

(d) To authorize the High Commissioner to make appeals for funds to enable him to solve the refugee problems referred to in subparagraph (c) above;

(e) To approve projects for assistance to refugees coming within the scope of subparagraph (c) above;

(f) To give directives to the High Commissioner for the use of the emergency fund to be established under the terms of paragraph 7" (of resolution 1166 (XII)).

Membership and composition of the Executive Committee

444. In General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII), the Assembly provides that the Executive Committee should "consist of representatives of ... States Members of the United Nations or members of any of the specialized agencies, to be elected by the Council on the widest geographical basis from those States with a demonstrated interest in, and devotion to, the solution of the refugee problem". The Executive Committee currently consists of 56 members.

Term of office

445. The term of office of members is normally for the duration of the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Reporting procedure

446 In accordance with paragraph 7 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 319 (IV), the High Commissioner reports annually to the Assembly through the Council. The Executive Committee reports likewise. The report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

Frequency of meetings

447. The Executive Committee meets once a year.

9. United Nations Population Fund

Terms of reference

448. The United Nations Population Fund was established in 1967 as a trust fund (later named the United Nations Fund for Population Activities) by the Secretary-General in response to Council resolution 1084 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965 and General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 17 December 1966 calling for an expanded programme of action in the field of population. Subsequently, the Secretary-General requested the Administrator of UNDP to administer the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

449. The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 3019 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, decided "to place the United Nations Fund for Population Activities under the authority of the General Assembly" and decided further, "without prejudice to the overall responsibilities and policy functions of the Economic and Social Council, that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, subject to conditions to be established by the Economic and Social Council, shall be the governing body of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and invites the Governing Council to concern itself with the financial and administrative policies relating to the work programme, the fund-raising methods and the annual budget of the Fund".

450. The General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of the same resolution, invited the Governing Council "to organize itself in such a way that it can exercise effectively these functions, taking into account the separate identity of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and its need to operate under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council, in close relationship with interested Governments and with appropriate international and national bodies, governmental and non-governmental, interested in population activities".

451. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 1763 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Council stated that "the aims and purposes of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities are:

"(a) To build up, on an international basis, with the assistance of the competent bodies of the United Nations system, the knowledge and the capacity to respond to national, regional, interregional and global needs in the population and family planning fields; to promote coordination in planning and programming; and to cooperate with all concerned;

(b) To promote awareness, both in developed and in developing countries, of the social, economic and environmental implications of national and international population problems, of the human rights aspects of family planning, and of possible strategies to deal with them, in accordance with the plans and priorities of each country;

(c) To extend systematic and sustained assistance to developing countries at their request in dealing with their population problems, such assistance to be afforded in forms and by means requested by the recipient countries and best suited to meet the individual country's needs;

(d) To play a leading role in the United Nations system in promoting population programmes and to coordinate projects supported by the Fund."

452. The Council, in paragraph 2 of the same resolution, also decided "that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities should invite countries to utilize the most appropriate implementing agents for their programmes, recognizing that the primary responsibility for implementing rests with the countries concerned".

453. In resolution 2025 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, the Council endorsed the following general principles to be applied by UNFPA in making future allocations of resources:

"(a) To promote population activities proposed in international strategies, particularly the World Population Plan of Action;

(b) To meet the needs of developing countries which have the most urgent need for assistance in the area of population activities, in view of their population problems;

(c) To respect the sovereign right of each nation to formulate, promote and implement its own population policies;

(d) To promote recipient countries' self-reliance;

(e) To give special attention to meeting the needs of disadvantaged population groups."

454. These five general principles and the request were later incorporated into General Assembly resolution 31/170 of 21 December 1976.

455. In its resolution 34/104 of 14 December 1979, the General Assembly, inter alia:

(a) Affirmed "that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, placed under the authority of the General Assembly by resolution 3019 (XXVII), is a subsidiary organ of the Assembly in terms of Article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations, without prejudice to section V of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 or to the mandates of other organizations of the United Nations system concerned with population";

(b) Invited "the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider devoting a specific period of time during its sessions to adequate and separate consideration of items relating to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities";

(c) Invited "the Secretary-General to arrange, in consultation with the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to participate in all aspects of the work of that Committee and its subsidiary machinery";

(d) Reaffirmed "that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities should continue to avail itself of the services of the United Nations Development Programme, including those of its resident representatives".

456. By its decision 42/430 of 11 December 1987, the General Assembly changed the name of the Fund to the "United Nations Population Fund", while retaining the abbreviation "UNFPA", on the understanding that this change of name would in no way change the mandate, aims and purpose of the Fund or the role and functions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly with respect to the Fund.

457. By its resolution 48/162, the General Assembly decided that the governing body of UNDP/UNFPA should be transformed into an Executive Board (see para. 291 above).

458. By its decision 50/438 of 20 December 1995, the General Assembly endorsed the agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to designate Fund resident country directors as Fund representatives, on the understanding that the Fund would take measures to enhance cooperation with and active support for resident coordinators for operational activities of the United Nations, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992 and on the understanding that the agreement would not result in increased administrative expenditure for the Fund.

10. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

459. The General Assembly, by its resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) "to carry out in collaboration with local Governments the direct relief and works programmes as recommended by the Economic Survey Mission" (resolution 302 (IV), para. 7 (a)). The Assembly has extended the Agency's mandate several times, most recently until 30 June 2002, in its resolution 52/46 A of 3 December 1998.

460. In its resolution 302 (IV), the General Assembly also established an Advisory Commission to advise and assist the Director (now Commissioner-General) of the Agency in the execution of the programme.

461. In its resolution 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, the General Assembly, having noted with grave concern the acute financial situation of the Agency, established "a Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, consisting of nine Member States, to study all aspects of financing of the Agency", which was to assist the Secretary-General and Commissioner-General in reaching solutions to the problems posed by the Agency's financial crisis. The Assembly has annually extended the Working Group's mandate.

Reporting procedure

462. In paragraph 21 of its resolution 302 (IV), the General Assembly requested the Director (now Commissioner-General), who, by paragraph 9 (a) of the resolution was made responsible to the Assembly for the operation of the programme, to submit to the

Assembly an annual report on the work of the Agency and to the Secretary-General such other reports as the Agency might wish to bring to the attention of the members of the United Nations, or its appropriate organs. The report is presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the General Assembly*.

11. World Food Programme

Terms of reference

463. The World Food Programme was established initially on an experimental basis, as a joint programme of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), by the General Assembly in its resolution 1714 (XVI) of 19 December 1961.

464. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes was established by the General Assembly in the same resolution under the name "United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee" "to provide guidance on the policy, administration and operations" of the World Food Programme.

465. Under the provisions of paragraph 9 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1714 (XVI), "subject to the guidance of the Intergovernmental Committee, the Programme will be carried on by a joint FAO/United Nations administrative unit. ... In the administration of the Programme attention should be paid to:

> "(a) Establishing adequate and orderly procedures on a world basis for meeting emergency food needs and emergencies inherent in chronic malnutrition (this could include the establishment of food reserves);
>
> (b) Assisting in pre-school and school feeding;
>
> (c) Implementing pilot projects, with the multilateral use of food as an aid to economic and social development, particularly when related to labour-intensive projects and rural welfare."

466. The Programme was extended by the General Assembly in its resolution 2095 (XX) of 20 December 1965, "on a continuing basis for as long as multilateral food aid is found feasible and desirable, on the understanding that the Programme will be regularly reviewed before each pledging conference and that, if circumstances so require, it may be enlarged, curtailed or terminated at the end of any period for which resources have been pledged".

Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

467. The General Assembly, in its resolution 3404 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, decided that "the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme shall be reconstituted as the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes" and that, "in addition to discharging the functions hitherto exercised by the Intergovernmental Committee, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes shall help to evolve and coordinate short-term and longer-term food aid policies recommended by the World Food Conference and shall in particular:

> "(a) Provide general guidance on the policy, administration and operation of the World Food Programme;
>
> (b) Provide a forum for intergovernmental consultations on national and international food aid programmes and policies;
>
> (c) Review periodically general trends in food aid requirements and availabilities;
>
> (d) Recommend to Governments, through the World Food Council, improvements in food aid policies and programmes on such matters as programme priorities, commodity composition of food aid and other related subjects;
>
> (e) Formulate proposals for the more effective coordination of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental food aid programmes, including emergency food aid;
>
> (f) Review periodically the implementation of the recommendations made by the World Food Conference on food aid policies."

Transformation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes into the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

468. In General Assembly resolution 48/162, the Assembly decided that the governing bodies of UNDP/UNFPA and of UNICEF should be transformed into Executive Boards. It also decided that the same arrangements should apply to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme, and that consultations between the United

Nations and FAO should be undertaken as soon as possible for that purpose in view of the fact that the World Food Programme was an autonomous joint organ of both (Assembly resolution 48/162, annex I, para. 30).

469. At its thirty-eighth session, held in Rome from 12 to 16 December 1994, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes considered the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 48/162. It approved the necessary changes to the General Regulations of WFP and a draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly and the Conference of FAO, through the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO, respectively. The General Assembly and the Conference of FAO created the Executive Board of the World Food Programme by adoption of parallel resolutions 50/8 on 1 November 1995 and 9/95 on 31 October 1995, respectively.

The Executive Board of the World Food Programme

470. The Executive Board began its functions in January 1996. The new General Regulations and Rules of the World Food Programme were adopted by the General Assembly and the Conference of FAO in decision 52/449 of 18 December 1997 and resolution 11/97 of 17 November 1997, respectively, and came into force with effect from 1 January 1998. Appendix B of the General Regulations, containing the distribution of seats of the Executive Board was amended in 1999 by General Assembly resolution 53/223 of 7 April 1999 and Conference of FAO resolution 6/99 of 13 November 1999.

Membership and composition

471. In accordance with the General Regulations, the Executive Board of WFP is composed of 36 State Members of the United Nations or member nations of FAO, elected by the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO from among the members of the respective organizations.

Term of office

472. The term of office of members of the Executive Board is three years.

Functions

473. Article VI of the General Regulations set the powers and functions of the Executive Board. The Board is responsible for providing intergovernmental support and specific policy direction to and supervision of the activities of WFP in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the General Assembly, the FAO Conference, the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO. The Board is also responsible for ensuring that WFP is responsive to the needs and priorities of recipient countries.

474. Among its functions, the Board is responsible for evolving and coordinating short-term and longer-term food aid policies; for the intergovernmental supervision and direction of the management of WFP; and for reviewing, modifying as necessary, and approving programmes, projects and activities submitted to it by the Executive Director.

475. Beginning in 1999, the Executive Board undertook a review of the way in which it conducted its business. At the Annual Session and the Third Regular Session, 2000, the Board approved a number of recommendations aimed at strengthening the governance of the World Food Programme by focusing on strategy, policy, oversight and accountability.

Reporting procedures

476. The Executive Board is subject to the general authority of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO and reports to the Council. Its reports are presented as a supplement to the *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*.

Frequency of meetings

477. Since 1996, the Board has met each year at one annual session and three regular sessions. Following the Board's decision on governance, it is expected that the number of regular sessions will be reduced to two per year.

B. Ad hoc bodies

1. Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development

Terms of reference

478. The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/196 of 22 December 1999, decided to convene a high-level international intergovernmental event, involving political decision makers at least at ministerial level, to consider national, international and systemic issues relating to financing for development in a holistic manner in the context of globalization and interdependence. Subsequently, in its resolution 55/245 (21 March 2001), the Assembly decided that the high-level international intergovernmental event would take the form of an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, at the highest political level, including at the Summit level, with the name of International Conference on Financing for Development. The Conference is scheduled to take place in Mexico in the first quarter of 2002 (Assembly resolutions 55/213 and 55/245).

479. The Assembly, in its resolution 54/196, also decided to establish an intergovernmental Preparatory Committee to carry out the substantive preparations for the high-level intergovernmental event and to facilitate the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders in this process.

Membership

480. The Preparatory Committee is open to all States. A Bureau consisting of 15 representatives of States Members of the United Nations, selected according to the principle of equitable geographical representation, was constituted and is presided over by two Co-Chairpersons.

Reporting procedure

481. The Preparatory Committee reports to the General Assembly on its work.

Frequency of meetings

482. The first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee was held from 30 May to 2 June 2000; the second from 12 to 23 February 2001. The third session will be held in two segments: the first segment from 2-8 May 2001 and the second segment for a full week in October/November 2001. The final substantive session will be from 14 to 25 January 2002 (Assembly resolutions 55/213 and 55/245).

2. Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa

Terms of reference

483. In its resolution 54/234 of 22 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to establish an ad hoc working group to monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1999/318) to prepare for discussions at the fifty-fifth session of the Assembly. The Working Group also monitors the implementation of the agreed conclusions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1999 on the development of Africa, Council decision 1999/270, as well as poverty eradication, debt relief, HIV/AIDS and support to countries in post-conflict situations.

Membership

484. The Working Group is open to all States of the United Nations. In pursuance of paragraph 8 of the resolution, the President of the Assembly serves as ex officio Chairperson and has designated two Vice-Chairpersons.

Frequency of meetings and reporting procedure

485. The Working Group held three sessions in 2000 and reported to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session (A/55/45). At that session, the Assembly decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group until 2002 (Assembly resolution 55/217 of 21 December 2000).

Notes

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8, forthcoming), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[6] In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1798 (XVII), 2128 (XX) and 2245 (XXI), the travel but not subsistence expenses of one representative of each State member of a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, except when the representative's normal duty station is at the place of the meeting, is paid from the regular budget of the United Nations.

[7] Taking note of paragraph 10 of Declaration 1 (XXIX) of 4 May 1994 of the ECA Conference of Ministers, the Economic and Social Council decided to readmit South Africa as a member of the Commission (Council decision 1994/303 of 29 July 1994).

[8] Effective 1 July 1997, the name was changed to Hong Kong, China (see Council resolution 1996/3 A of 18 July 1996).

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49* (A/41/49).

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.

[11] Ibid., vol. 796, No. 14152.

[12] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), part one, chap. I.

[13] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 15* (E/1994/35/Rev.1), part three, chap. III.

[14] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 14* (E/1995/34), part three, chap. VI.